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Thursday, September 18, 2003 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 6

violence on campus

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Turpin's salary soars with tuition fees

BY JEFF ANDREW

What is the worth of a person? How do we weigh the contributions of an individual to society against the costs required to sustain them? Can the work they do be measured with the harsh yardstick of monetary value?

In other words, how much should a guy get paid for doing his job?

In the case of current UVic President Dr. David Turpin, the answer, apparently, is $278,225. That's the total amount he'll receive by the end of the 2003 fiscal year, an increase of $25,975 over last year's salary. At a time when students are facing another 30 per cent increase in tuition fees, many are questioning whether the price is worth it.

"Most students are having their lives dramatically altered by reckless cuts and increases in tuition," said UVSS Chair Jude Coates. "It's ironic that the president is not being asked to carry the burden of these cuts in his own life."

It should be noted that this figure includes a $50,000 allowance for vehicle and housing costs.

Turpin is in his third year of a five year contract, so this number actually represents his payment for the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

Eric Donald, chair of the UVic Board of Governors, says there is a great demand right now for senior university administrators, and the seemingly high salaries are necessary for UVic to compete with other schools in Canada and the United States.

"UVic is a top school," he said. "It deserves a top-flight academic leader and administrator."

The problem is that the price tags for these administrators have skyrocketed in the past few years. By comparison, remuneration for UVic's last president, David Strong (1991-2000), topped out at $220,617. And Turpin's contract actually seems modest compared to that of UBC President Martha Piper, who is expected to earn $350,000 this year, plus another $50,000 in bonuses if she meets her performance goals.

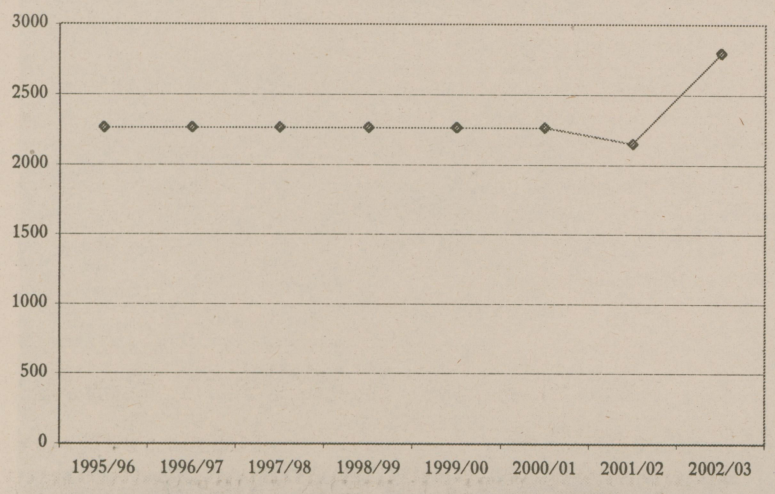
According to Donald, paying the big bucks for bureaucrats of Turpin's calibre is an investment in UVic's future.

"Look at what Dr. Turpin has done," he said. "He's attracted top-flight professors, and he's been the driving force to get the medical school and the Continuing Studies Building. We're very fortunate to have him."

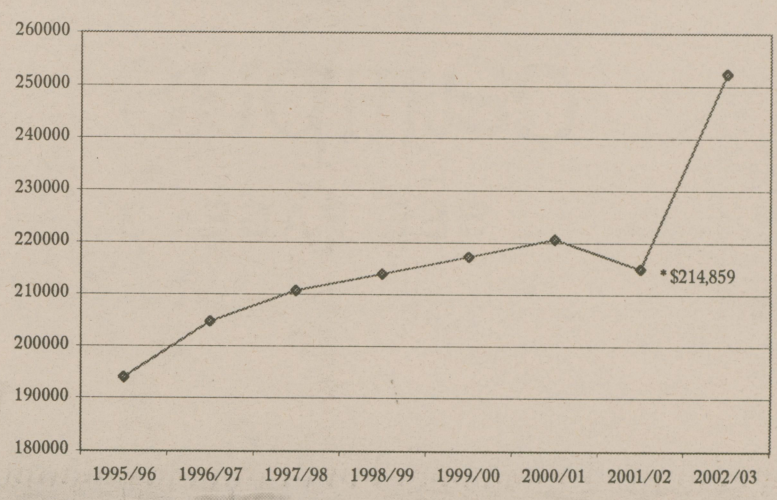
Jude Coates remains critical of Turpin's salary, citing what she sees as a lack of administrative concern over rising tuition fees.

"If he's being paid that much, he should have the foresight and the willingness to put pressure to the government to properly fund post-secondary education," she said. "Some of our most important leaders have never been paid close to that amount. If Dave is not willing to fight for equity and accessibility on our campus, then I have a hard time justifying his position, let alone his wage."

Tuition



President's Remuneration



** Included $69,826 for moving expenses. This was Turpin's first year as president, and he only served seven months of that fiscal year (contract began Sept 1, 2000). His actual remuneration for that year was $145,833.*

CORRECTION

In last week's article on tuition fee increases, we incorrectly reported that UVic gives out just under $2 million a year in financial aid. The actual figure for 2003/2004 is $8.1 million. $1.9 million is the amount by which it was increased this year.

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Slashing continues violent trend

by John Thompson

A man was slashed with a sharp-edged weapon at the University of Victoria last Saturday outside of the large party held in the Student Union Building, during an evening of rowdy drunkeness that Campus Security hopes will be the last in the near future.

The incident occurred behind the Cinicenta movie theatre late on Saturday night, when four students were walking back from residence, said Constable Chris Horsely from the Saanich Police. A fight ensued, leaving two students cut and another with a damaged nose from a kick to the face.

The three injured were driven to the hospital after police were called. Further details are sparse, except that the cuts turned out to be superficial. One of the cut men received first-aid from a woman working at the Munchie Bar, but she refused to comment for reasons she wouldn't say. Janitors mopped up blood left behind, but none at the scene could be contacted prior to press time. Police are unsure if a knife, razor, or another sharp object was used, since no weapon was found at the scene. They're also puzzled why it took over 20 minutes for the incident to be reported.

"There was a police car there in 20 seconds… but it took them 20 minutes to call," Horsely said.

Aside from the violent outbreak, police spent most the night keeping an eye on inebriated students. Two were thrown in the drunk-tank.

"One bright spark decided he needed to urinate, so he climbed onto the back of a police car. He was so intoxicated he didn't see the two police officers in it. He spent the night with the Saanich police," Horsely said, adding that when the student woke up in the morning, he was apologetic and said he didn't remember anything.

Director of Campus Security Hunter McDonald was called into work at 12:30 a.m. after the slashing was reported, where he stayed until 4:30. He described the list of incidents that night–wilful damage, fighting and plenty of liquor confiscations–as unsurprising, except for the slashing.

"There was a lot of alcohol… a lot of drunkeness," he said.

Most of the property damage appeared to occur at a rowdy party in cluster housing, where cars had their tail lights smashed out and a moped was kicked over. Nearby, windows and doors were damaged in residence and family housing.

McDonald added that the student society did their best to prepare for the event, crediting them for preparing taxis and a shuttle bus to ship party-goers off campus in the early morning.

"We didn't have any reports of drinking and driving," he said.

The slashing is the third surprising incident this September. First-year student Cameron Morton remains in the hospital after suffering from a serious head injury incurred during the first week of the school year. One week later, a man was arrested by Campus Security when he was caught scrawling "white power" on the orientation tent. It was originally believed the man wasn't from the university, but McDonald said campus security have since been informed that he is a student.

"My hope is this weekend is the last of this," said McDonald. "We've had several tragic events in the past few weeks."

Rapier like wit

John Thompson photo

Members of St. Giles College display their prowess with the epee outside of the SUB on September 11. Two are displaying the lesser know sit-down style of fencing.

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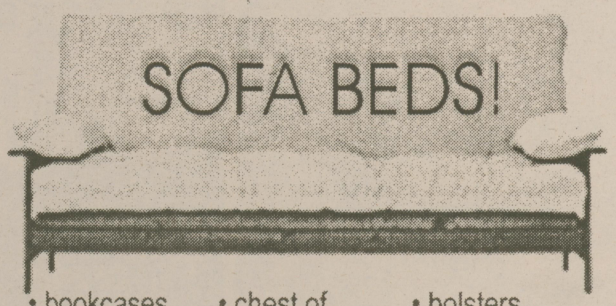
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Prof speaks out about racism charges

'Atmosphere of fear' among sessionals

by Aman Nirwan

An investigation into allegations of racism in the UVic political science department has been extended past its deadline, but the professor in question has broken his silence.

As of September 1, 2003, the contract of Dr. Andrew Andersen has not been renewed.

So far, the university has refused to say whether his departure is connected to allegations that he made anti-Muslim remarks.

The remarks were sid to have been made during a discussion about the September 11 terrorist attacks against America in an international conflict class he taught this summer.

Asked when he was notified of these allegations, Andersen replied, "I was notified several days after the complaint was filed officially. But unofficially, I knew about it before the complaint hit the desk of the chair."

One week before the complaint was filed, one of Andersen's students, Maeghan Knowles, notified Andersen about a conversation she had had with the complainants.

"They told us that they were going to the chair of the political science department to discuss a couple of things about Dr. Andersen," said Knowles.

To her recollection, about a week later one of the complainants told her and other students that they should not expect Andersen to return to the university.

"She said that we shouldn't expect Dr. Andersen to be back, and that she was going to make sure that he wouldn't be," recalled Knowles.

Andersen said he was initally shocked about losing his job with such little warning. "According to my colleagues, the decision was made in February–I found out in May only."

He added that he felt the investigation could have been handled differently. "For example," he said, "when the complaint was first filed, I tried to get in touch with the chair of the department to discuss it. I never got that possibility–no way I could have done that."

Andersen also said that the complainants were offered a type of conflict resolution that would be held in the presence of university officials, "But the complainants said no. So what did they want? I don't know."

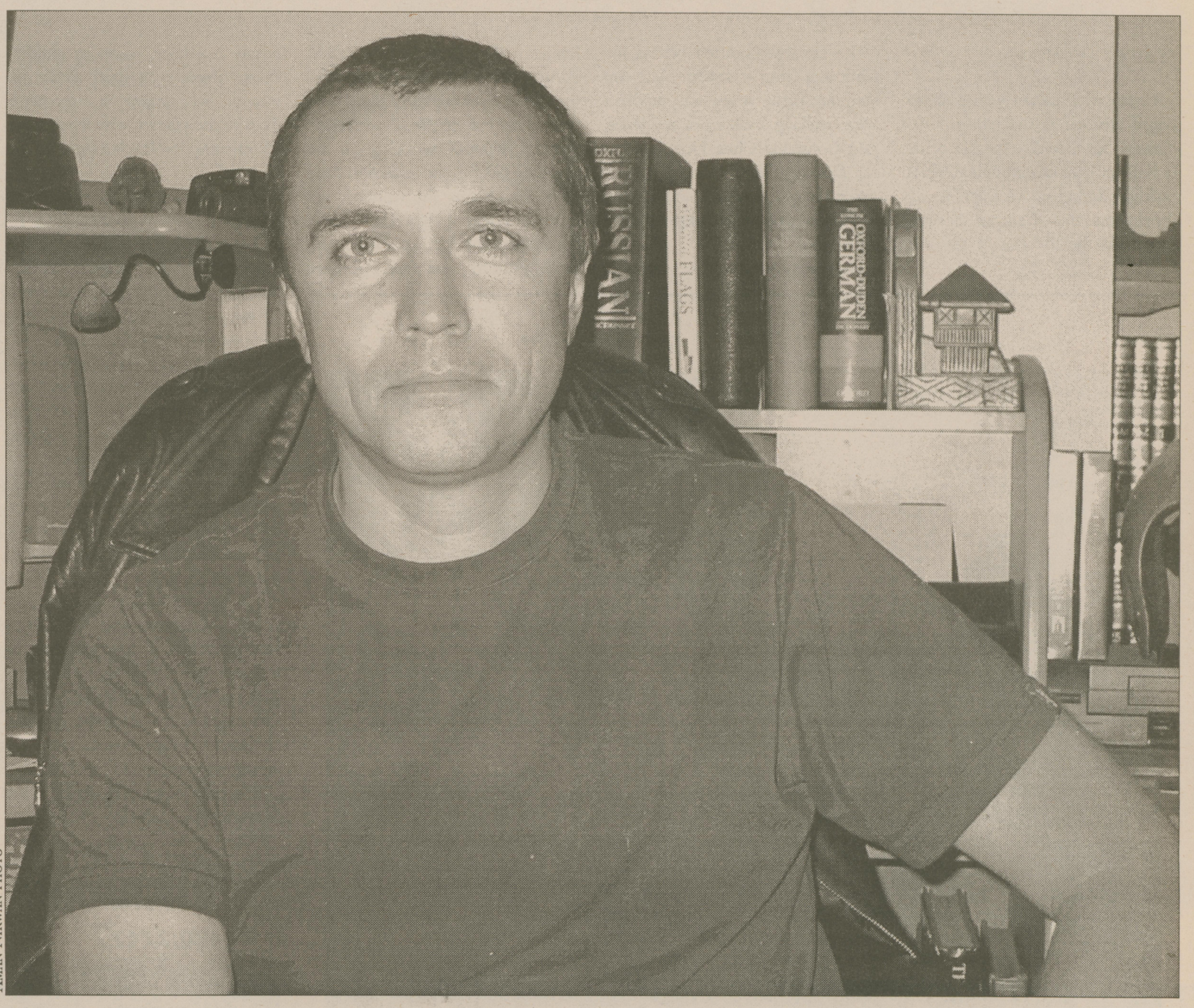
"From my point of view, I was in a pretty good position with the department. All of my teacher evaluation forms were either 'excellent' or 'very good.'"

Andersen also questioned why the complaints against him were filed after the course marks were posted and long after the teacher evaluations sheets were filled-in.

"If a complainant is insulted in his or her religious, racial, or ideological feelings, they should have complained much, much earlier in the course," he said, adding that since any comments were made in front of 60 students, discerning what was really said shouldn't be difficult.

Andersen also described an "atmosphere of fear" among the sessionals in several of the departments at the university. Said Andersen, "they are afraid that now all kinds of students wanting to get better marks than they deserve will try to repeat the same 'experiment' with them–and it is quite possible, because the complainants have been shown by the university that whatever the complainants are doing, the university is supporting them. So this actually encourages people to make complaints of the kind."

Andersen said that he is proud of all of the students that stood up for him. "This whole story of the allegations made me really proud of all my students, proud to be Canadian, and proud to be on this campus, except the complainants. In spite of that, truth will find its place, lies will find their place, and everything will be resolved the way it should be."



Aman Nirwan photo

Dr. Andrew Andersen's contract was not renewed at the end of August.

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Missed buses, overcrowding and confusion

Funding problem has councillors considering gas tax hike

by Patrick White

Puzzled looks, long waits and general confusion have become commonplace at bus stops across Victoria since September 2, when a new schedule with major changes for 17 bus routes came into effect.

The changes make the trip to and from UVic a challenge for some students. One student, Tali Chernaiwsky, said that the new schedule is confusing and the #2 bus she rides is usually 15 minutes late. "The bus drivers aren't too happy," she said. "I guess the schedule doesn't allow them to get to their stops on time."

Some bus drivers are just as confused as riders. While BC Transit employees are not allowed to speak to the media, one driver, who we'll call George, said that some drivers on the revamped #2 route have taken two weeks to figure out exactly where they're going. "There have been a lot of complaints about the #2. It just covers a big area and drivers have been getting the brunt of the complaints."

Victoria Transit Commission marketing manager Chris Forrd agrees that changes to service have been difficult for drivers and riders. "We are getting confusion mainly on route #2. We hear it's just covering too much geography and the route has been running late. We have big running time issues on the Foul Bay corridor, but we're out there trying to fix them."

Other transit problems have to do with overwhelming September ridership. "We are getting massive passenger loads with a capital 'M'. Gas at 90 cents per litre and the U-Pass going into its fifth year probably has a lot to do with it."

Forrd cited Thursday's huge passenger loads in the Quadra-Hillside area as an example of the strained system. In a one hour period,670 people rode the bus in the area with 40 people being left behind.

Returning to George, he has found that on his #14 route some people have had to wait for three buses to go by before they finally got a chance to board.

Because the transit commission cannot afford to increase service, Forrd said buses have been taken from routes with lower passenger loads and added to heavier routes.

"We are doing this because we have to," he said. "We had our budget frozen a few years ago. We have to take buses from less busy routes and put resources on heavier routes."

Victoria councillor Rob Flemming has received a number of complaints regarding the renumbering and renaming of routes through the Advisory Transport Committee, which is made up of citizen stakeholders in transit, such as bikers, transit riders and bus drivers.

Since the BC Liberal government came to power, all transit funding has been frozen despite rapidly increasing gas prices and ridership in Victoria. Over the past two years the freeze equates to 40,000 annual service hours, according to Fleming. He is concerned that continued transit disruptions will affect the city's growing ridership numbers. "If a bus can't leave on time and get you there on time, the ride is uncomfortable and it's going to push people back into their cars," Fleming said.

Traditionally BC Transit has worked on a 30/70 funding split between the province and local sources. With the 30 per cent provincial share frozen, the Victoria Transit Commission is searching for new local funding options. Currently that share comes from property tax, gas tax and transit fares. If new funding sources cannot be found, these existing sources may have to bear a bigger burden. "Raising the gas tax seems the least illogical," said Forrd.

Fleming is concerned that budgetary pressure may result in a fare raise, something he says would do more harm than good. "A fare increase would be the absolute worst thing. It would be just another disincentive to riding transit."

Fleming would like to see the Commission lobby the provincial government for increased funding. "The Commission is not pushing hard enough for investment in public transport. The Province just committed 300 million to the RAV line in Vancouver. Another year of funding cuts would be devastating. The commission has been quiet on the issue of provincial funding."

Until new sources of revenue are found, transit in Victoria will continue to see juggled routes, crowded buses and distraught riders.

Graham Stark graphic

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Rebecca Peric photo

Gordon Dash from Campus Security and *Martlet* writer Jasper Schwartz watch drivers whiz around the Ring Road. The license plates from excessive speeders will be passed on to police, Dash said.

Speed demons, part deux

by Jasper Schwartz

As a follow-up to "Speed demons, beware" a story in last week's paper, I headed out on the Ring with Gordon Dash, Campus Security's expert on traffic management and transportation. We went out at ten o'clock on a Thursday morning, armed with a radar gun and a large board that displayed the results.

According to Dash, "Wider one-way roads, with lots of lanes, encourage speeding. People each have a tolerance for speeds. Some speeders are used to higher speeds than others, and these people often don't even notice that they're speeding." During the day, Ring Road is usually fairly controlled, but later on at night the Ring appeals to some people as a natural drag strip.

This is the scenario that led to the destruction of the parking ticket kiosk on the southern end of the Ring. In the early hours of the morning two people decided to race from Cedar Hill Drive towards the Student Union Building. One of the vehicles lost control and hit the ticket kiosk, similar to the one located just off of the McKenzie Avenue exit. Luckily no one was seriously injured, but the kiosk has yet to be replaced.

The first place we set up was right outside the Human and Social Development building. Even before we had the radar gun ready, cars were slowing down when they saw us. The first car clocked was going 40 dead on, the Ring Road speed limit. As soon as the driver saw the Campus Security van, and the large lighted display board, they slowed down to 30, 10 km/h below the speed limit. This was an act that was repeated again and again.

The vast majority of cars that came by were going the speed limit or five kilometers over. When drivers saw us they usually slowed to five km/h below the 40 limit. One car that came by was going 50, and as soon as the driver saw us they hit the brakes and slowed to 25 km/h. Of the few cars that were using excessive speed, none were doing more than 15 kilometers over the speed limit.

Disappointed by the apparent lack of lead-foots, we packed up and moved our equipment to the stretch of Ring Road where Lot 1 joins the road. Here we had a little more excitement. The corner is heavily wooded here, and it seems people take the opportunity to pick up some extra seconds before they get to the delays caused by crosswalks in front of the SUB. Here, speeds reached as high as 63 km/h, 23 clicks over the limit. The cars averaged about 50 km/h, what the speed limit was up until recently, when it was lowered to 40.

It seems that the new speed limit hasn't had much affect on speeds on Ring Road yet. "When the speed limit was 50, the average speed on the Ring was 58-60 kilometers an hour. Now that it's 40, most of the time the average speed is still 58-60," said Dash.

So what affect does campus security's radar activities have? "If there is evidence of enough people speeding, within the next two weeks the police will start to increase their presence on campus roads," said Dash, who added that there will be two weeks of increased ticketing done by the Saanich and Oak Bay police departments. The license plates of excessive speeders will be taken down by campus security and passed on to police.

Trojans attack campus

Self-installing viruses slow computers

by Stefan Currie-Roberts

SARS? Mad Cow? Nope, forget it. The most modern virus is something else, and you catch it by surfing the Internet–or rather, your computer can.

Since early August, a Trojan virus that slows your computer down to a snail's pace has targeted UVic computers. This type of virus exploits a weakness in Microsoft network programming to secretly enter your computer through its networking port and install malicious programs that do anything from stealing your personal information or using your computer to attacking the Microsoft website.

"The virus is not that hard to get rid of," said Arthur Brett, head of Computing User Services at UVic, "but most of the time the user will not even know if they are infected." Brett said the only sign of infection for this virus is a sudden decrease in your computer's speed, so many users will not know to take the necessary countermeasures–installation of a security patch, and reinstalling system software.

Brett explains that the sneaky thing about this virus is that your computer can be affected just by going on the Internet – you don't have to open an email attachment or install infected software. This can also mean that if several computers are linked to an infected central server that accesses the Internet, all of those computers will then be infected.

One of UVic's lab servers recently got infected, slowing 300 computers and forcing staff members to reinstall software and install patches. Brett said that it takes time to install these patches and reinstall software. "Staff have been going to the computer labs late at night to fix the problems continually," he said.

Is there an end in sight?

"The problem [with Trojan viruses] is ongoing," said Brett, noting that new viruses are being written as Microsoft updates its software, "it only seems to be getting worse." Brett warns that it's not entirely fair to blame Microsoft for the networking flaws that lead to these attacks. "If you're going to wreak havoc it's going to be on Microsoft and their users because that makes up 90% of the computer market."

The virus can attack any computer that is attached to a Microsoft network and runs an operating system newer than Windows 98. Those who may be infected are encouraged to read a bulletin on the UVic website.

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UVic community mourns

Former student senator made international headlines

by Patrick White

Many in the UVic community were shocked last week to hear of the sudden death of former student senator and current biology graduate student, John Fraser, aged 26.

Fraser died unexpectedly of a ruptured ulcer on September 3, 2003.

Fraser made international headlines in the spring of 1999 when he convinced the UVic senate to turn down the Shell Canada Limited Recruitment Scholarship based on the deplorable human rights record of Shell Petroleum, Shell Canada's parent company.

Before long he was fielding media calls from across Canada, the United States and Europe.

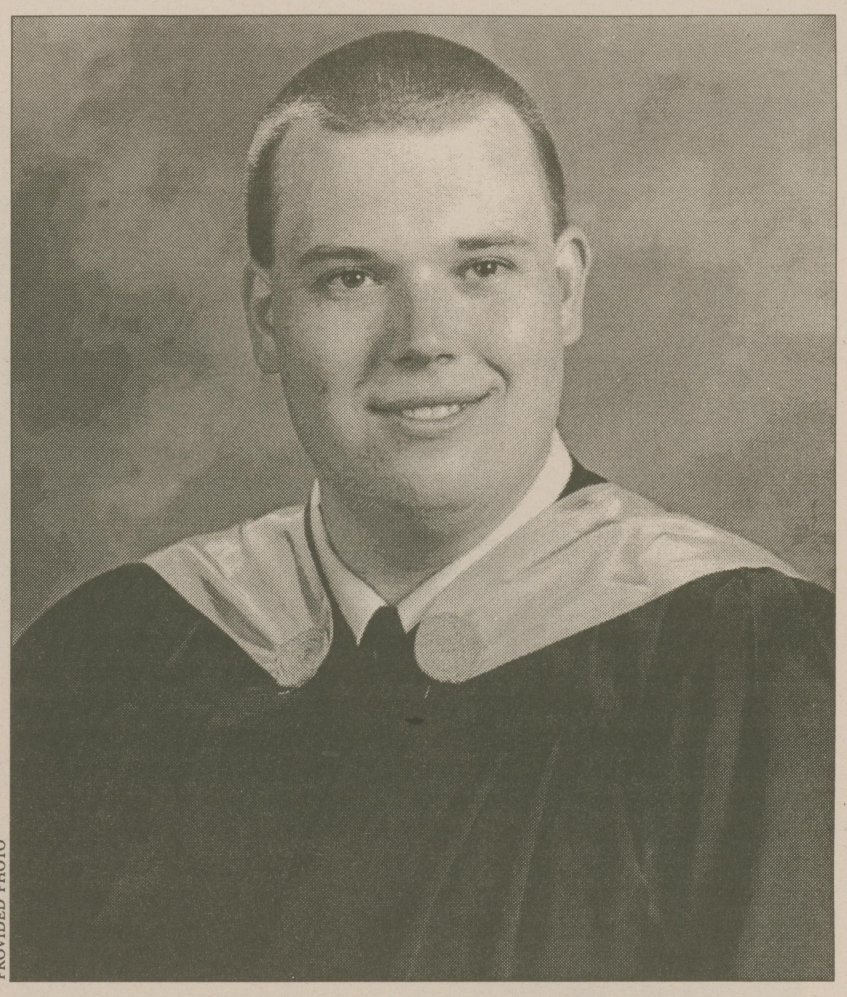
"To him Shell was a terrible company with a terrible human rights record who shouldn't get cheap P.R. from UVic," said Jonas Gifford, former director of finance for the UVSS and a close friend of Fraser's. "We'd been friends for years," said Gifford. "We first met when we were both in Scouts."

Gifford will most remember Fraser's sense of humor. "You could always count on him for a dirty joke. He could crack up anyone."

University Secretary Sheila Sheldon-Collyer worked closely with the senate and remembered Fraser fondly. "He was a very committed student senator who became an integral part of the senate. I remember him well because he actually participated. He was passionate about academic planning and spoke up. He was just a great guy."

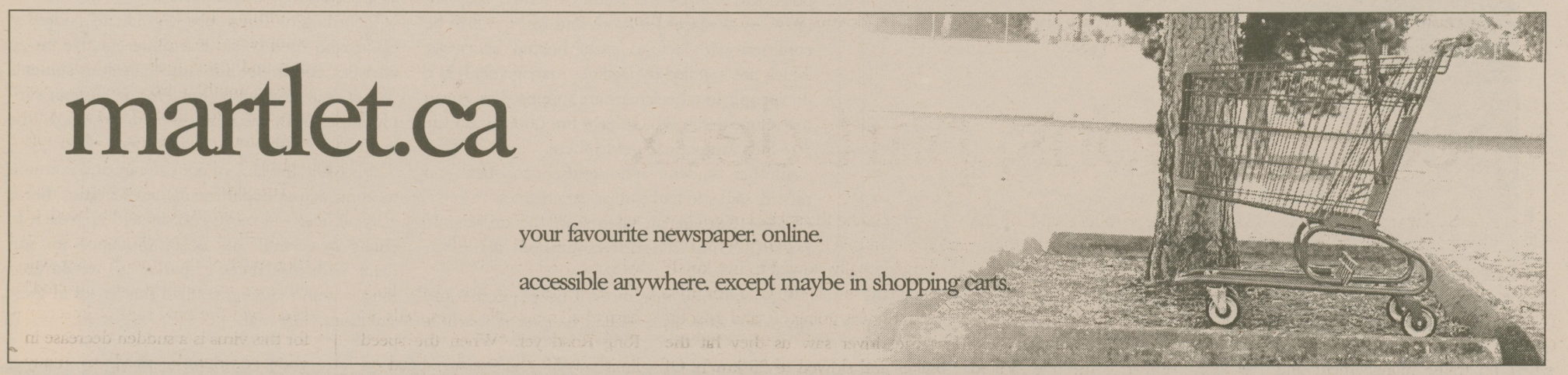
Fraser's interests went well beyond the university. He was committed to numerous global causes including Amnesty International and the Boy Scouts movement.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, September 21 at 3:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 5575 West Saanich Road.



PROVIDED PHOTO

John Fraser is remembered for his dedication to the UVic community.



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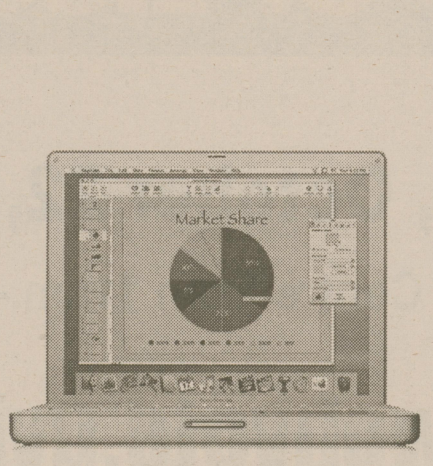

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*Apple SuperDrive required for iDVD. SuperDrive and iDVD available on selected models. Keynote sold separately. TM and ©2003 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved.

Itsy bitsy spider

Nic Hume photo

A spider whiles away its days trying to ensnare and devour unsuspecting insects by the Campus Services Building.

Disabled students frustrated

by Mary Hughes

The University of Victoria is facing criticism about how its facilities for disabled students are managed.

The complaints followed the re-opening of the UVSS Society for Students with a Disability (SSD). With this new space open, some students began to speak about their problems at the University's Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD). Danielle Strom, a former social work student, left the university last February for a variety of personal reasons.

She said one factor for her departure was she couldn't find quiet spaces on campus. She is frustrated the resource centre didn't tell her about the quiet rooms in the library, even though she asked about secluded places around campus.

"I was not told about the quiet rooms in the library that would have helped with several of my issues," she said, "even though I asked for support, and was more than clear with the RCSD about my need for rest and resources, while attending classes."

These quiet rooms are reserved for students with disabilities – there is one in the library on the second floor, and one in the basement of the Business and Economics Building near the computer lab. Run by the resource centre, they are intended as places for work and rest – not to be confused with refuge areas behind stairwells, which are handled by facilities management. In a fire, people in wheelchairs are supposed to stay in the refuge areas, which have fire doors, until the Fire Department can get to them.

Another student, who refused to speak on record, said she had similar experiences.

Laurie Keenan, an advisor in the university's resource centre, said she was surprised by the criticism.

"Generally my mission is if people come into my office they leave feeling happier and a little more confident about the coming semester," she said.

"I don't often see people who have problems with the centre," she added.

Part of the problem could be the location of the centre, which is crammed into the grey Campus Services Building next to the McKinnon Gym and behind the bookstore. The RCSD shares its space with counselling services, career planning and testing, international studies and the Interfaith Chaplains services.

For student's with disabilities, the RCSD offers private exam rooms, longer exam periods and notes to teachers, sometimes with the request for a note-taker to accompany a student.

Some lesser-known roles of the centre are to help with applications for Canadian Study Grants, conduct information sessions for new faculty at the beginning of every academic year, and provide access to special software and adaptive resources such as textbooks in Braille.

Some students have raised questions about the amount of training staff in the RCSD. In response, Laliberté said that there is no official training in the field of disability service provision, as it is relatively new in Canada and the United States. Laliberté himself has a degree in child and youth care and worked with youth in various psychiatric settings for over 20 years.

According to Teri Hibbs, a graduate student at UVic who used to sit as a representative on an advisory committee for issues affecting students with a disability, many problems on campus simply arise from students slipping through the cracks.

"It is really the lack of consistency and communication across departments and faculties that is at issue here – a more coordinated approach to equity in general, and accommodation for students with disabilities in particular, would go a long way in reducing conflict that arises in these situations," she said.

GSS Graduate Students Society

Notice of Election

GSS

VOTING: Wednesday, October 22, Thursday, October 23

You can vote at the Grad Centre from 11am - 2pm or vote on-line at

http://webvote.uvic.ca

Nominations:

Open Wednesday, September 24
Close Tuesday, October 14

Nomination packages can be picked up at the GSS general office in the Grad Centre

For more information, please contact the GSS general office in the Graduate Students' Centre by phone at 472-4543 or at gsscomm@uvic.ca

GSS Executive Council Positions:

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

Director of Communications
Director of Finance
Director of Student Affairs
*term of office is November 1, 2003 to October 31, 2004

http://gss.uvic.ca

Higher income equals higher education

Report links wealth with post-secondary participation

by Brian Baker
Ontario Bureau

TORONTO (CUP) – Students from high-income families have significantly higher chances of getting a post-secondary education, a recent StatsCan report shows.

The survey documents an 83 per cent participation rate for students whose families earn an income over $80,000 – a stark comparison to families earning less than $55,000; only 55 per cent of youth from these families moved on to some form of post-secondary education.

Lynn Barr-Tellford, a Statistics Canada official, explained the study looked at variables including access to post-secondary education, duration of studies and how the students pay for their education.

Barr-Tellford said they looked at all aspects of where students were obtaining money to pay for their education.

Participation levels in Ontario are particularly low.

Including tuition, students in that province need to spend an average of $14,512 per year – considerably higher than the national average of $11,200.

For Adam Spence, Ontario University Student Association executive director, this figure is a serious barrier for lower income families.

With the increasing demand for outside assistance, a more "selective and well-off" student will have a better chance of obtaining a university education than someone from a middle class background, he said.

"People who have more money and come from more affluent families are more likely to go to university," said Spence.

Jeff La Porte, OUSA's president, says the government needs to ensure that students from middle income families will qualify to receive loans.

Ian Boyko, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the study reveals that the cost of post-secondary education has become an insurmountable obstacle for thousands of families.

"Without a national system of needs-based grants and significant reductions in tuition fees, our public system of higher education is becoming more elitist every year," he said in a release.

The first results of the report, titled Access, Persistence, and Planning, can be found at www.statcan.ca.

Great-grandmother awaits judgment in jail

by Stephen Hui
British Columbia Bureau

VANCOUVER (CUP) – A 74-year-old environmentalist found out that she would have to spend a few more days in jail while a judge mulls over her fate last Friday.

Betty Krawczyk, a great-grandmother, was arrested twice while blockading logging roads – violating a court injunction — in the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island earlier this year. British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Bruce Harvey will rule on her criminal contempt of court case this week.

"He said he would reserve decision on whether or not Betty would get out, and he would hand down his decision on the entire case within a week," said Joe Foy, national campaign director for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, by telephone.

Over a dozen environmentalists rallied on the steps of the court a week ago as Krawczyk's trial got underway. Supporters said that she was arrested for protesting the logging of old-growth trees and the provincial government's Working Forest plan, which would see almost half the province designated as a land base for the forest industry.

Krawczyk has been in custody for over 100 days and has refused to sign a document purporting to keep her away from the area.

"I've been sitting in prison for three months," the defendant told the judge on the first day of the trial. "I want a fair hearing in this courtroom."

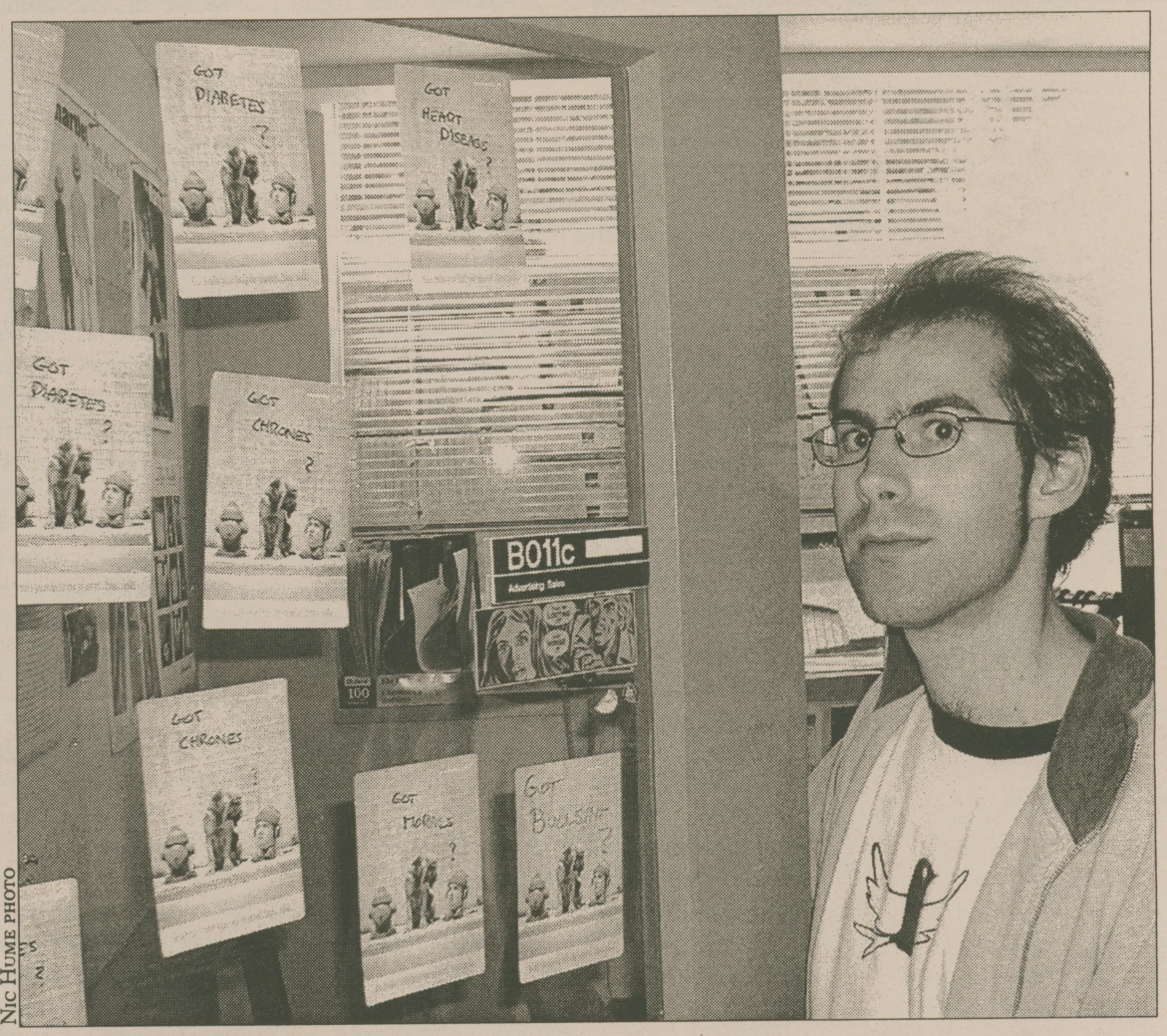
Cameron Ward, Krawczyk's lawyer, argued that the case was still a civil matter and, therefore, the Crown was not a party to the trial. Ward also claimed that his client's rights were violated because she is being held without formal charges.

"These proceedings should be stayed," Ward said.

But Crown counsel contended that it was normal for no charge or indictment to be brought forth in a case of criminal contempt of court.

"Criminal contempt is a very unusual situation," Simon Richards said.

Got time on your hands?



Nic Hume photo

On September 11, 2003, the Martlet office was attacked by sticker-wielding vegans while the newspaper staff enjoyed a much-deserved pub lunch in the Grad Lounge. The stickers, distributed in last week's paper as an advertisement for the B.C. Dairy Foundation, were found on computer monitors, furniture, doors and ceilings with slogans like, "got diabetes," "got sperm," and "got morals." Martlet Editor-in-Chief John Thompson, above, was eating a chicken caeser salad at the time of the incident, and ate four pieces of fish and chips the next week, unrepentant.

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TIM HARVEY PHOTO

Rushin' to

BY TIM HARVEY

"We are going to meet the Russians," bellows George Harris with a hawkish grin as his funky bus rumbles down Galiano Island's main road.

He looks in the rearview mirror and catches my eye. Harris, who operated Galiano's Hummingbird Pub before founding the Gulf Island Film and Television School (GIFTS), drives the island's most conspicious vehicle, with "Reels on Wheels" and a stylized projector splashed in white across the black exterior. Slim and pushing 50 with spectacles and raven-black hair, he is having an excellent mid-September day. His forest academy of "guerrilla film-making," as he calls it, has won awards at festivals worldwide, and today's errand is an indication of GIFTS' growing reputation.

"The Russians are coming," he shouts again, then pauses. "We hope," he adds.

Harris has reason to be hopeful, since the Russians hope to forge an international partnership that would benefit both schools. Their visit sparks hope in me because of the uncanny coincidence of their timing. After all, my reason for taking a crash-course at GIFTS is to preparate for a year-long documentary expedition, beginning in Vancouver and ending in Moscow.

I made my decision three months ago, after I hiked with Victoria-native Colin Angus to the bluffs on Galiano that overlook Active Pass and, in the distance, the glacier-capped Olympic range. Turkey vultures rode thermals at the start of the longest summer heat wave to hit the coast in decades. A year after graduating from the University of Victoria, I was fresh back from an internship in El Salvador, and I was still adjusting to the rhythms of first-world living when Colin hit me with his proposition.

Next June, he suggested, we cycle out of Vancouver for a year of mountains, oceans, and arctic plains. We would cycle to Fairbanks, Alaska, float down the Yukon River, and row across the Bering Sea, before skiing into the roadless Siberian steppe, with a team of dogs and filming gear in tow. Our mission: to observe the calving glaciers and melting permafrost that signal global warming in advance, and the myriad effects on northern ecosystems and indiginous culture, without burning a drop of fossil fuel ourselves. It was a classic Colin Angus hair-brained scheme.

At 31, Colin's fit, clean-cut urbanite look is only a veneer. It veils a deviant boldness driven by a desire to challenge near-impossible odds, then play down his feats as a matter of simple life choices.

"Too many people lose sight of their dreams, or give up on themselves," he says. "But if you have a conviction that something can be done, and break it down into small tasks, almost anything is possible."

This simple credo and heaps of blind luck carried him through twelve years of adventuring, starting at age 19 when he and high school friend Dan Audet sailed in a small boat from Comox to the South Pacific, with no previous experience sailing offshore. Dan went on to study at UVic while Colin dreamed up his next adventure: the first successful descent by raft of the entire length of the Amazon River. The trip catapulted him from obscurity to the pages of Mens Journal and Outside, book deals, and awards at festivals of mountain films, where being almost drowned, shot, or irrevocably lost does well with audiences. He followed up the Amazon by rafting from Mongolia to the Arctic Ocean along the world's fifth-longest river. By publicizing his exploits, Colin has reached a point, he tells me, where "it would be ridiculous not to plan another major expedition. The opportunities for this one are so enormous, to sit around would be a waste."

But sitting on the grassy bluffs on Galiano, I couldn't separate opportunity from insanity, so I accepted it as both. I was drawn by the prospect of creating a film, and the notion of travel at a human pace. At another level, what allured me was a chance to unravel the spectre of Russia itself.

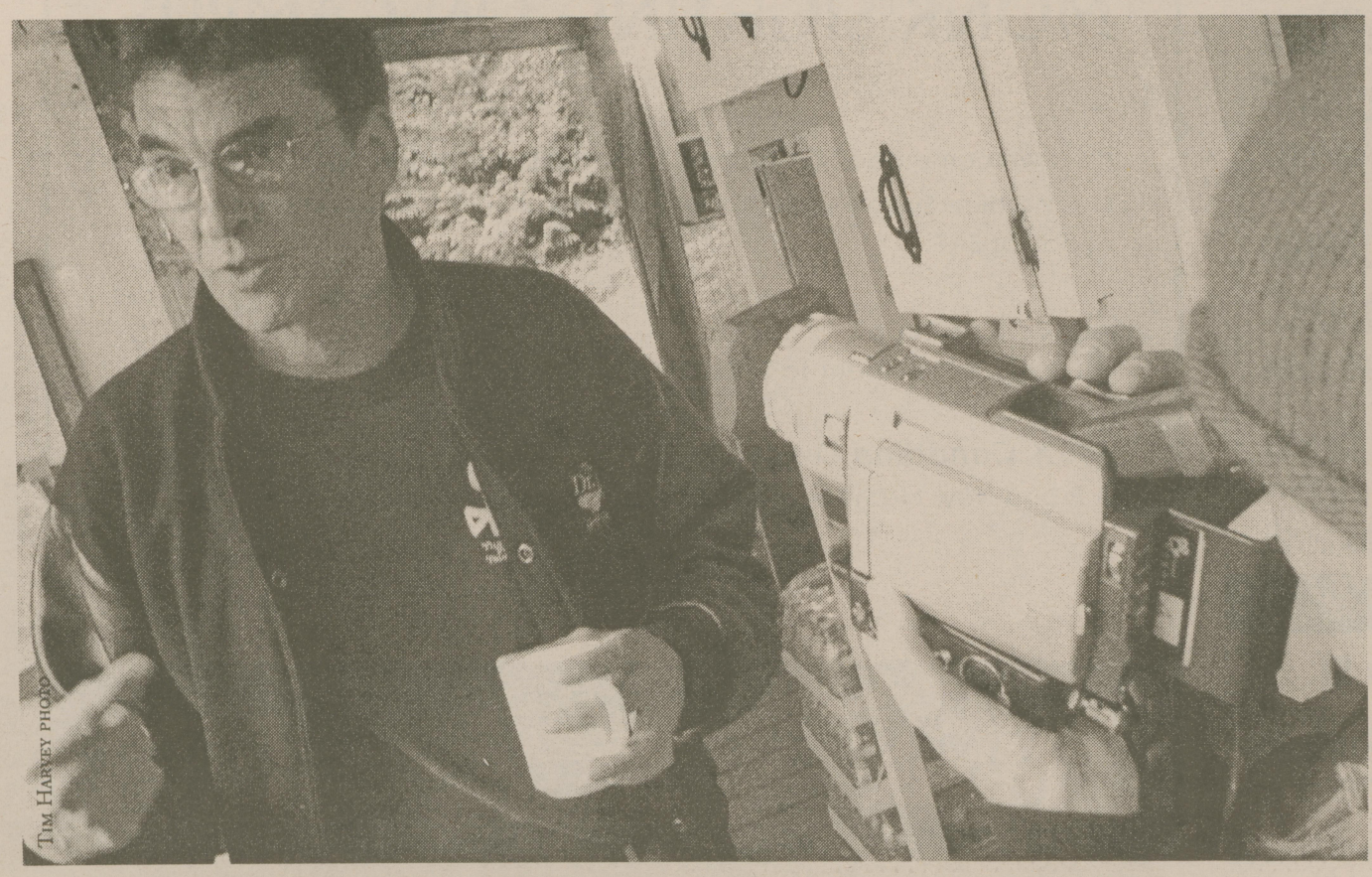
To me, that's all Russia was, a spectre. It was the mental coalescence of cheesy Le Carre villains, hockey players, and vintage Cold War newsreels, fused to impressions of icy landscapes, ballet, and the archetypical meaty babushka. Few nations are as evocative, but my ideas of Russia are warped by years of Western media. So what is the reality of Russia, and how could I find out? I would need to find myself some Russians.

And now, by some stellar alignment, the Russians are here.

• • •

The last nine foot-passengers to unload from the Queen of Cumberland lug the heavy bags that mark them as a film crew and chatter in their Slavic language. Our cameras roll as Harris extends his hand to deliver the fullness of his Russian lexicon: "Ochin priatna!" at which the Russians beam and greet us in English.

The group's matriarch is stout and greying, a woman named Ala who founded the Moscow International Film School (MIFS) at the height of her career in Russian cinema. Her English is limited, but most of her three instructors and five



TIM HARVEY PHOTO

TIM HARVEY PHOTO

o Moscow

students speak English fluently. I learn that Canada is the latest in a series of travels including Southeast Asia, Korea, and the United States, where they collected footage for "The Freedom Project." The project explored punishment and human redemption in a haunting documentary that includes Korean prison scenes and interviews with survivors of Stalin's infamous gulags, the forced-labour camps of the Stalin era.

Here in Canada, the Russians visited First Nations communities in Alberta and Salmon Arm, BC, to collect footage for a project that began with indigenous communities in the mountains near Russia's Mongolian border.

Inspired by the cultural revival taking place among Canada's First Nations, they now hope to organize an international festival of indigenous cinema. I learn from Nadia, a MIFS student with a stunning abundance of curly blonde hair, as we head up-island on the bus. Nadia, who arranged the MIFS expedition to Galiano Island, is only 16.

"She found us on the Internet, and made this happen, which is extraordinary" says Harris, who didn't know the emails came from a teenager. "But everything about this school is amazing. They're thinking outside the box."

George sees GIFTS as his part in supporting a media-literate population of critical thinkers, "because the media we are spoon-fed has a single agenda: buy stuff we don't need, we can't afford, which is killing the planet."

Sinister as Harris makes it sound, the fact remains that ads alone don't fly off the stands – media still depends on content. The essence of compelling news hasn't changed since caves were first painted with stories of the hunt, or Beowulf was cobbled out of Viking campfire tales. If it bleeds, it leads.

Which is why Angus is a perfect media darling. His past journeys have been rife with Murphy's Law. He has been shot at by Shining Path gurrillas in the Amazon basin, been thrown from a raft into the world-class white water of the Andes, and been reduced to living on tree sap, birds' eggs and wild rhubarb, after losing his partners on a rafting trip down the Yenisey River in Mongolia.

The Vancouver-to-Moscow expedition is already being being talked about as a vehicle for a greater cause. While it demonstrates the viability of emission-free travel, the journey will shine a spotlight on the far northern latitudes affected by the planet's most extreme rates of climate change. Without a human element, global warming and emission-free travel rarely work as stand-alone stories, but with Angus' track record, we're sure to face near-death scenarios on a semi-regular basis. That's front-page news.

• • •

The next day I listen in on an interview with the Russian students, who lean on a rail in the school courtyard in a sprinkle of rain. Igor is the first to field a question. He has long hair and keeps in his pocket a metal mouth-harp called a kamoos, which sounds like a didgeridoo. It is the instrument of shamans who live in sturdy, fur-lined tepees of the Siberian tundra.

"In American films," says Igor, "it is like the Russians are all military people, who all must drink vodka - and we are not very smart. But the American is always smiling."

Nadia says that most Hollywood productions are without a driving force, with the exception of a few, like Apocalypse Now. "Our teachers tell us that to make a film or write a book or paint a picture, the artist must have a problem that worries him," she says, "almost enough to interrupt his life."

The pensive-looking Katia offers an even more sobering statement: "if you want to be an artist you must always feel pain." Only artists in pain, she asserts, can truly put themselves into their work for viewers to connect with.

And in case we don't get the point, the Russian youth recommend one film to drive this message home: Andrei Rublev, by Andrei Tarkovsky. Set in medieval Russia, the postmodern film is about "the Russian spirit," although words can't express what this is. But according to Igor "it is always said that Russia is a dark country, but has a strong spirit"

To that dark country of short winter days, I will dedicate two years of my life. One year to raising funds and to get there, then next six months to cross Siberia to Moscow, followed by another six months of working with the footage. I wonder if by post-production, I will be moved by the pain a good film requires? As Angus and I move by across the long, desert-dry section of Siberia that averages –40°C in January, some degree of pain is guaranteed – but I suspect the Russians meant pain of another, less literal variety.

Perhaps I'll ask them when we meet again in Moscow. Meeting this enigmatic bunch on Galinano Island, I've scratched the surface of a complex culture but find myself left with more questions than ever. No matter how deeply I immerse in Russki culture, I don't expect George's poignant line to loose any of the complex depth of meaning it carried when first bellowed above the roar of his bus:

"We are going to meet the Russians."

For more information on Tim Harvey's expedition, see www.vancouvertomoscow.com

Tim Cope photo

EDITORIAL

No peace for morons

It's been a depressing week. Along with the onset of cold wind and rain, we're faced with the fourth disturbing incident on campus this September. It's enough to cast a dreary pall on the term.

First Cameron Murton, a first-year student in residence, was hospitalized with a serious head injury. After that, a cab driver was assaulted near the UVic residences after chasing down four young men who ran away without paying their fare. Then a student was caught scrawling "white power" around campus under the cover of night. And now, we hear of two students slashed in a fight outside of last weekend's party in the SUB.

It's easy to dismiss these acts as bizarre anomalies, but to do so would mean ignoring our responsibility as academics to "make the connections," so to speak. It would be ignoring the rise of an organized political movement that, if left unchecked, could spoil what we have on campus.

We're talking about morons.

Okay, maybe we're overstating the point. Morons usually aren't organized, and if anything, they're anathema from politics since they trample and vomit over the middle ground that makes politics possible. That doesn't mean we mustn't be vigilant about them.

Then there are others – let's call them morons by association – who are complicit with moronic acts. For us, reporting about the stupid things that happen on campus isn't easy when those who witness them don't want to speak. Take last weekend's slashing, for instance, where some witnesses were more concerned about endangering their chance of having huge parties in the future than telling us what they saw.

We know, we know: The media can be morons too. When covering this dreary stuff, there's always the temptation to sensationalize violence. But by providing a record of what happened and separating fact from hearsay, at least everyone is a little more informed. The next step, of deciding how to act, is up to you. Of course we do have a suggestion: Let there be no peace for morons.

Members of the university community are often seen as aloof and snobbish to those outside the Ring Road, but there are some people who should be shamed and shunned.

It's no longer acceptable to be racist in polite society. That's a good thing, but we need to raise the bar: it shouldn't be acceptable to be a moron either.

In memoriam

On a more sombre note, this past week has seen the loss of two members of the UVic community who won't be easily replaced. As a student senator, John Fraser threw countless hours of his life into lobbying for student rights and fighting against injustice in the chilly climate of our academic bureaucracy. Most of us have convictions, but few are as willing to stand up for them as Fraser was.

The basketball courts also feel empty with the loss of Guy Vetrie, coach of the Vikes men's team. He also gave to us all, leading our team to many victories and instilling campus with a sense of pride.

Both led by example. Both will be missed.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.
Don't like what you read?

Write us, or write for us: martlet@uvic.ca

The Martlet distributed stickers promoting milk! Let's vandalize their office!
Yes! Not only is it entirely their fault, but it totally gets our message across!
My clothes are made of hemp!
MEAT IS MURDER
GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Ignorant's writing on the wall

I felt obliged to write regarding the slogans recently written on walls and sidewalks around campus.

First of all, many of these slogans are apparently quite misinformed. "Drop Tuition not Bombs"; "Get Out Bush, Reinstate Saddam."

What the fuck? However, these uninformed slogans are not the worst of it. As I left the library one night, I saw the protesters and heard one ask "Does Canada have troops in Iraq?"

Now, in my opinion, the invasion of Iraq is itself a very misinformed action, but you can't fight ignorance with ignorance.

Thank you,
Michael Collinge

Martlet muddles Maltwood exhibit

Dear *Martlet* Editorial Team,

First of all I would like to thank your paper for reviewing 'The Williams Legacy: Contemporary Art of the Northwest Coast' (September 11th, 2003). However, I do have a few quibbles with the text. First of all, though I have been very intelligently paraphrased, I don't think any of the quotes attributed to me are actually things I said.

More specifically, Ken Flett is currently working in a homeless men's shelter in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and though he has done similar work in Errington, I don't know of him ever working in Prince George.

Susan Point's 'Good Luck' is a spindle whorl, not a 'wool spindle', as the caption states, though this is explained somewhat more clearly in the text.

I'm also uncertain as to whether Malinsky's 'Bride of the Captured Earth' was ever displayed in Swans Pub, although I know smaller, and equally striking, works by the same artist have been on display there and one, 'Naamah the Charmer' is currently.

Contrary to what I've been quoted as saying, not all Salish art is ritual, although traditionally most Salish arts had ritual functions, which is why Susan Point began working with the spindle whorl, an object more akin to folk art, when she began producing work for commercial sale.

Finally, I would like to clarify the exhibit's other two venues. 'The Williams Legacy' will run here in the Maltwood until October 10th, as well as downtown in the Fran Willis Gallery (200-1619 Store Street) until September 28th. A broad cross-section of the Williams Collection is also on display, as it always has been, in Swans Hotel (506 Pandora).

Thank you for taking the time to publicize this event,
Cathleen Thom
Curatorial Assistant and Publicist
Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery

Sustainable development first

Dear Farmer Construction and David Turpin's Upper Floor Planning Pals, care of the "sMartlet" and the general boohaahaas of the UVic population.

Hey! I've got an idea! Let's take the busiest road entrance to UVic and cover it with a crushed rock "path" that will cause every third car that drives across it to crash or lose control! What's that? That would never happen? Oh, of course, because we respect the roadways that cars use to access the University. Can't hold up that flow of traffic. But wait! People walking, people riding bikes to school? Why, they won't mind. Let's blaze an amazingly wasteful aggregate roadway across THEIR access to the school. Oh, and they won't mind yielding to bulldozers, moving trailers and dump trucks.

Thanks for bringing "sustainable development" to campus, UVic administration.

After the clearcut, this concrete wasteland you've created will really stamp into our impressionable young minds the hypocrisy you intend when you tout "development." Maybe next time you want to blast down a hectare of trees for increased Provincial-Doctor throughput, we'll be a little more vocal. Here's hoping.

Looking for a quiet spot on campus,
Emerson Belland

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The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Public input needed for campus plan

'At stake is the shape of UVic for the next century'

BY JUSTINE STARKE

It is more important than ever before that people from UVic and neighbouring communities understand the campus planning process because we have an unprecedented opportunity to affect the design of a new planning system.

On May 12, 2003, the University Board of Governors (BoG) approved UVic's 2003 Campus Plan.

Prepared by a subcommittee of the Campus Development Committee (CDC) along with members of Facilities Management and the Vice-President of Finance and Operations, the new plan successfully addresses the wave of public feedback that was generated in response to the Draft Campus Plan released in May 2002.

The 2003 Campus Plan is not, however, a regulatory document. In other words, the goals and processes set by the Campus Plan are not formally binding. Whether or not they are achieved will depend on the new planning institutions and processes established as a result of the review process.

The 2003 Campus Plan recognizes innovative concepts, such as "smart growth", and commits to reviewing the status of many areas of campus. For example, it establishes broad commitments to the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship. However, the plan does not provide an overall vision for UVic's future growth. The document does not set-out how this new process of growth is to be implemented.

Furthermore, it contains some striking internal contradictions, such as proposals to reduce our reliance on automobiles while planning for an ever-increasing number of parking spaces.

After the discussions of the past year, the community clearly has an overriding interest in seeing that the potential of the Campus Plan is realized during future campus development.

A major area of concern is that the plan continues a tradition where extensive discretion is implicitly given to individuals within university operations (Facilities Management) to determine how, and indeed if, the principles are to be achieved. Rectification of this situation is not mandated in the new plan, although the potential exists through the plan's own recommendation for a review of the planning process. This potential can only be realized by the creation of a new planning structure within the University.

The new Campus Plan has huge potential. Nevertheless, the Plan:

1 Is limited to physical development as a process to accommodate student population growth and does not yet integrate other aspects of university life, including academic programs, research, fund-raising, labour relations, environment and so on;

2 Is explicitly not "regulatory" in nature, so does not set out specific commitments that would ensure that the formal principles will become accepted practice;

3 Does not yet embody a campus-wide vision, and still contains a number of internal contradictions;

4 Could end up being controlled by an operational, not a planning, body;

5 Provides only the beginnings of planning and consultative mechanisms that will be needed to ensure proper implementation; and

6 Has not developed specific solutions in many sectors (such as transportation management, green space preservation, densification) that will be needed to reform the historic process of fragmentary and ad-hoc development.

By providing the option to review planning, the existing CDC, through the Campus Plan, has committed to resolving these limitations. Under the terms of reference of the review committee, this can be achieved with a comprehensive overhaul of planning structures, beginning with the CDC itself.

A three-person review committee has been given until October 15 to review existing legislation, policies, and procedures, research best practices at other universities, and consult with the community. The terms of reference of the Review Committee include making "suitable recommendations for the future planning process at UVic."

Every aspect of planning (presently largely focused on the CDC) is on the table.

The team will be receiving written submissions until September 15, and will prepare a report by the end of October "in order to ensure an effective campus planning process." The team will also provide proposals "on changes to the role and structure of the CDC" in order to "harmonize future growth and development" and "promote sustainability in campus planning."

There will be three meetings next week to give the university community a chance to speak to the review committee members and give input into the redesigning of the CDC.

Come out and give your input to insure last year's Cunningham Christmas surprise never happens again.

This is the most important, the most pivitol issue that the university has faced since its inception in 1961. It comes, interestingly enough, on the centenary of the institution's founding in 1903. At stake is the shape of UVic over the next century.

The Campus Development Committee meets on September 22 and 25 from 7-10pm and on September 23 from 2-4:30pm, inside Fraser room 159.
Justine Starke is a member of the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance.

Preparing to take back the night

BY RUBINA SIDHU

In Victoria this year, women and children will rally at Centennial Square. The women's centres have organised speakers to contribute personal and global stories of violence against women. Men are welcome to attend both the rally and march, but are asked to respect the nature of this event by standing on the sidelines and walking on the sidewalks during the march.

The UVSS Women's Centre and Camosun College Women's Centre are organizing this year's Take Back the Night, September 19, 6 p.m. at Centennial Square.

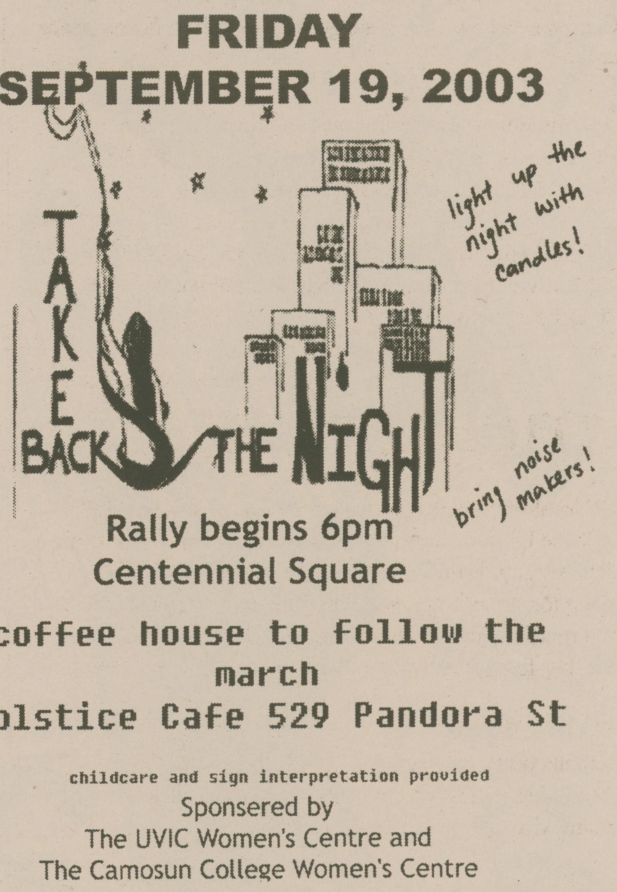
Take Back the Night is historically a symbolic night for women and children to stand in solidarity and to 'take back' the streets and proclaim them safe from violence.

Take Back the Night is an international event, with marches and rallies occurring around the world since 1976. In that year, in Belgium, women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women walked together holding candles to protest the ways in which violence permeates the lives of women worldwide.

While the event initially aimed to protest conditions causing women to feel unsafe when alone at night on the streets, 'night' is also a metaphor for the fear, isolation, coercion, and cruelty that women experience daily in a patriarchal culture. Take Back the Night offers women the opportunity to take what might otherwise be private experiences of injustice, and break the silence by publicly naming these wrongs. In so doing, women symbolically reclaim their bodies, their homes, their workplaces, their streets and their lives.

Violence against women encompasses much more than individual acts of physical brutality. Women are subjected to systemic violence, which denies them access to resources and decision-making power. Domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment, racism, homophobia, poverty, denial of reproductive freedom, and inadequate access to safe and affordable health care all impinge upon the lives of women in ways distinct from men's experiences of these injustices. Furthermore, all men – whether they realize it or not – benefit from privileges they accrue by virtue of living in society marked by such vast disparity of opportunity. So, Take Back the Night is not solely about sexual assault. Rather, it is an act of solidarity against the predominantly male-perpetrated systemic violence.

Take Back the Night is about women taking back what has been denied to them by the male-dominated society. The planning of the event and participation in the march itself are limited to self-identified women. This is not intended to trivialize violence against men. Rather, Take Back the Night is a time for women to stand in solidarity to reclaim their streets and their bodies – without the help or protection of men.



As part of the worldwide movement to 'take back the night,' women will walk without fear through the night and reclaim the streets, which for many years have been sources of fear and violence.

The UVSS Women's Centre asks all women to attend the night, bring noisemakers, rowdy crowd pleasers, candles and solidarity to make this night a success. For more information, please contact the UVSS Women's Centre 721-8353 or the Camosun College Women's Centre 370-3484.

Rubina Sidhu is the Coordinator of the UVSS Women's Centre.

Get Involved!

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Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30

sub b011

Style without substance

The dubious future of CampusTV

BY BRIONY SMITH

Jeremy Lutter keenly felt the lack of a film department at the University of Victoria. Unlike the rest of us lazy kids who dabble in the film courses offered by the German, writing, or history in art departments, Lutter decided to do something about it. As one-third of the company known as Peak Pro Media, Lutter, along with Jesse Logan and Adar Harlson (and pinch-hitter scribe Ben Rollo), eschewed traditional film tutelage in favour of crafting their own little piece of celluloid: a TV series called CampusTV that parodies reality television, as well as TV shows and commercials, through the medium of sketch comedy.

CampusTV portrays a group of students (the majority played by UVic theatre students) in a "media studies" class where their task is to produce a weekly TV show. These segments are interspersed with the students, in character, talking to real UVic students about things like their worst job and their opinion of the fictional media studies department (several people said that they had indeed heard of it!). Creative writing student Lutter and his writers and actors have been working on the project for over a year, writing it last winter, shooting it this spring, and completing the editing this summer.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Lutter shot the footage on his own film equipment ("gathered over the years by saving my pennies") and then edited the film on the Macintosh program Final Cut Pro.

CampusTV does look stunning with exciting cuts, a variety of shots, professional-looking editing, good sound quality, and colourful settings. When asked what the most difficult thing about such a guerilla production was, Lutter replied with a laugh: "The scheduling! When you're not paying your actors – except in pizza – it's a huge ordeal to get a group of busy students together for a scene."

Wrangling your fussy cadre of thespians may be tough, but Lutter faces a challenge far greater in attempting to spread the CampusTV slogan of "Don't worry, you won't learn anything" to the rest of Canada. Lutter is looking for a co-producer for the series, and has peddled his half-hour preview tape of the first episode to stations like the CBC and the Comedy Network, though he's been unsuccessful thus far.

Lutter said the rough feel of the production gives CampusTV a youthful air. "We embraced the student life while making the show," says Lutter, "rather than the professional route." With their low budget and limited resources, he said he didn't want CampusTV to be seen as pretending to be something they're not.

But maybe it's this very issue that stands between CampusTV and success. CampusTV is filled with stereotypes: the protesting hippie, the socially awkward computer science student, the ruthless business student. The lack of character development might suit the light-hearted nature of comedy, but it may cause problems in CampusTV's reception by a wider audience that isn't familiar with these human caricatures of student life. The one-note feel of the "students" might also lessen the humour of the series. How many times can a joke based on a broadly exaggerated and often inaccurate persona be funny?

There is also the fact that the parodies within CampusTV do not seem to be actually saying anything. The program included spoofs of such shows as "Crocodile Hunter" and commercials for Vidal Sassoon shampoo, but it is unclear how the original message is parodied. "In terms of social satire," says Lutter, "comedy is a good vehicle for getting the message across." But when asked whether CampusTV is trying to say something, or is just straight-across parody, Lutter said that CampusTV is more about straight-across parody. This is unfortunate, as parody is supposed to ridicule what it imitates, but the parody in CampusTV is relatively tame, the wit not sharp enough to penetrate the mind and the comedy too predictable to make the viewer laugh out loud.

Still, Lutter and Harlson are optimistic about the appeal that CampusTV could have to wider audiences.

Their ultimate goal would be to bring CampusTV to other university campuses across Canada, where they could conduct their "on scene" interviews with students from all over the country.

Lutter prides himself on the "student flavour" of CampusTV. Harlson adds, "It's not about what we can say to the public. We like to think of it as a campus comedy with universal appeal."

The enthusiasm that the co-founders of Peak Pro Media and their actor pals put into CampusTV, combined with the dazzling look of the series, make it a promising bet for the hopeful film-makers. Once the quality of the humour catches up, it'll be a sure thing.

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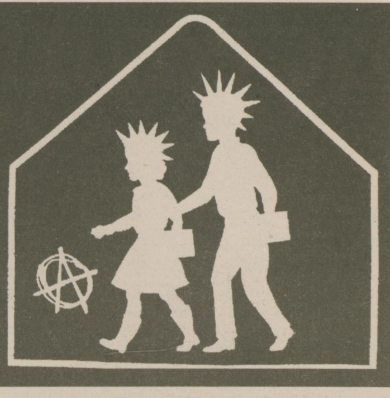
In Theatres September 19



Why should Antimatter matter?

by Ashley Little

The Antimatter Festival of Underground Short Film and Video is about the obscure, outrageous and illicit side of film. Now in its sixth year, this year's festival features short independent films from 25 countries including: Canada, Singapore, the Phillipines, USA, UK, Peru, Chile, Spain, India, Mexico, Hong Kong, Brazil, Iran, Bolivia, Australia, the Czech Republic and France.

Founded in Victoria by the Rogue Art Society, I interviewed festival director Todd Eacrett about what it's like to have a passion, an idea, and make it a reality.

So, Antimatter is your baby?
TE: Well, yeah… It was actually Deborah (de Boer, Antimatter curator) and I that started the festival.

How did you come up with the name?
TE: It's a little obscure but it's a little explosive, or kind of out there somewhere… which applies to a lot of the work we show.

What other countries do you tour with the festival?
TE: We did the Foreign Matter tour in 2002, and took all the Canadian films from the first four years of Antimatter to India, The Czech Republic, Serbia and Mexico. We're putting together a tour for 2004 and so far we're confirmed for the Phillipines, Bali, and possibly Columbia and Brazil.

You had almost 1,000 entries and chose 200 of them. What do you look for in a film?
TE: We're looking for original ideas, innovative techniques, we're looking for a work that uses different styles and methods to tell a story or explore a new technique. We get some really straight narrative work and some of that's really good but it may not be Antimatter material because it's more Hollywood style. We're a lot more open to different viewpoints and different techniques and offbeat material.

What is your film background?
TE: I took a number of film courses at UVic and UBC, mostly sort of history and theory courses. I got into making films on my own using friends' equipment. That's where my interest lies, in the actual process of making film, the hands-on stuff.

What is the most important or intriguing thing about independent underground film?
TE: There's a freedom of creativity and freedom of expression, whether that's personal expression or social expression. People can make it work without any kind of constraints, [they] can make a great low budget video for $10. It has to be something you really, really love, cause if you're in it for the money – it's not gonna work (laughs). You really have to have that passion, you know and be motivated.

How do you get off the ground?
TE: It helps to start small and have some sort of local support and some money. We talked to other people at film festivals, filmmakers, and people in the arts community. We sort of figured out what the potential was in terms of the public, fundraising, and the work available that we could show.

Why should people be excited about underground film?
TE: It's exciting because it allows people to see such a wide range of viewpoints, whether individual viewpoints or viewpoints from other cultures… it's like you get to travel the world.

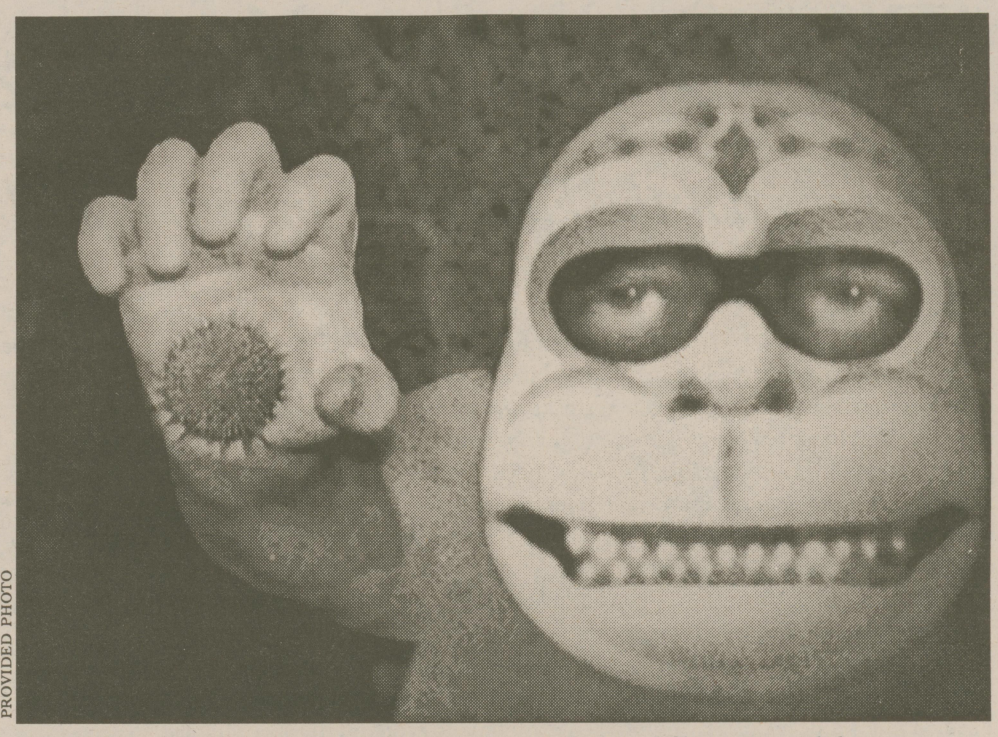
Alright, and last question: Why should students attend Antimatter?
TE: Becaues it's fun! You know, it's an opportunity to see films you would never otherwise get a chance to see. Two-thirds of the work is the world, North American or Canadian premiere, so it's probably their one and only chance to see it. Whether you're a film student or a visual arts student, a creative writing student, a biology student: there's something there that's gonna interest you. Every year I talk to a lot of students that go to the festival and they go away with tonnes of ideas for their own work, for their own studies, for their own art.

Antimatter Film Festival runs September 19 – 27.

Most screenings are at Open Space Arts Centre, 510 Fort St. Victoria $4.00

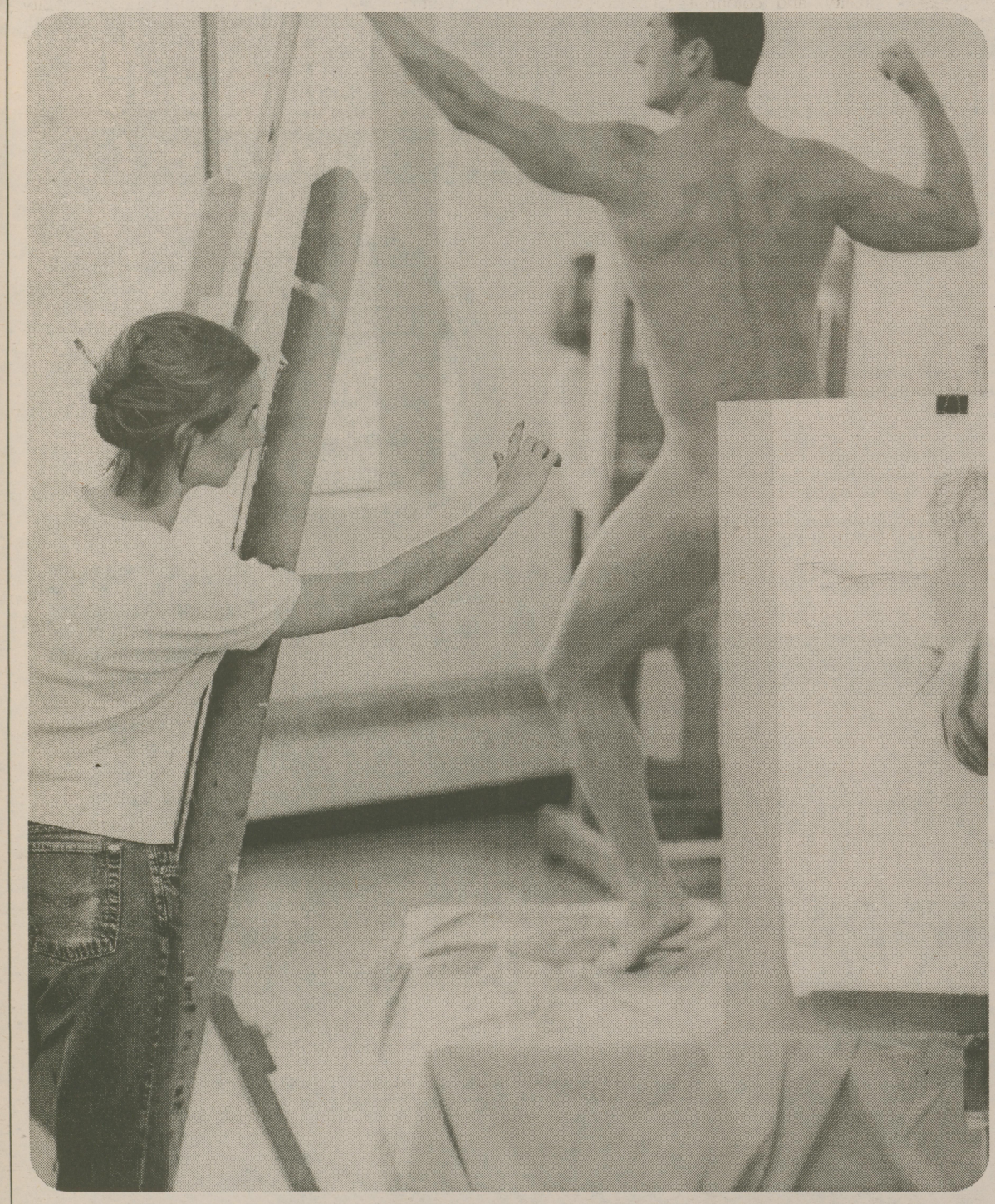
Some free screenings are at The Ministry of Casual Living, 1442 Haultain St.

Program guides are available on-campus at The Martlet and CFUV in the basement of the SUB and at other locations downtown.



PROVIDED PHOTO

C-Flat by Jim Minton is one of the many bizarre and twisted films screened this year.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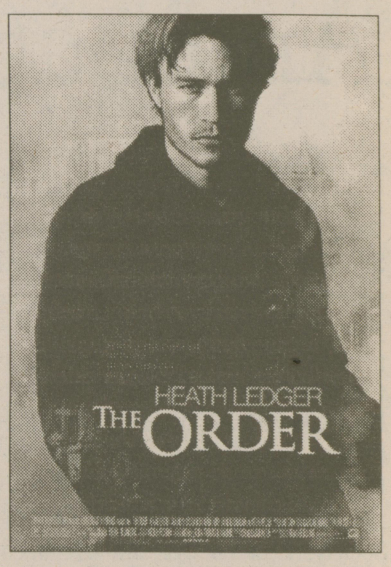
The Order sucks wang chung

(And it's not the kind of wang-sucking I like to watch)



BY BRIONY SMITH

You know you're in trouble when, during a screening of a film, you muse out loud that enjoying some gay porn would be preferable to watching another minute more of this dreck. I experienced this while watching the piece of cinematic garbage called *The Order*.

Expecting a cheery romp though archaic Christian lore and Heath Ledger tarted up in his priest's collar, I settled in for a delicious serving of sacrilegious trash. Note: there is a difference between good trash and bad trash. Good trash (or a "popcorn movie", as the film critic Roger Ebert calls them) is a bit o' harmless fun: a well-made, inoffensive, relatively intelligent wee movie with heart and some laughs. Bad trash is bad film: movies with no taste, no brain, no compassion, no smarts and no humour.

The Order is so bad that it wasn't even funny to see and mock. It was disgustingly horrid, an embarrassment to watch. Brian Helgeland is a gifted writer of film adaptations with several high-quality credits under his belt including *L.A. Confidential* (for which he won an Oscar) and the upcoming *Mystic River* (for which the buzz is phenomenal). Why he thinks he can write a decent original film is beyond comprehension, as is evidenced by this piece of boring nonsensical drivel.

Even before its release, this film was regarded as a ridiculous waste of celluloid. Due to be released at the beginning of 2002, it had to be released more than a year and a half later because the film-makers needed extra time to work on the special effects which had elicited wild unintentional laughter from test audiences; one viewer claimed that the vision of sins leaving the body looked like "calamari". It appears that the filmmakers took the year and a half off, as the special effects still look like calamari. The distributors also chose to make the film unavailable to the press for review before its release date. With the exception of *Tombstone*, this has always signified the advent of a big fat bomb (see Roberto Benigni's *Pinocchio* or the American Idols' From Justin to Kelly) that the PR guys don't want to doom further with bad press. In this case, not even the blessing of Pauline Kael could save this film from utter wretchedness.

There are many plot holes and confusions of narrative thread. There are leaps in time and all characters are severely underdeveloped. The supposed "bad guy" is the coolest person in the movie and you start rooting for him the second you realize that Ledger is a hopeless feeb.

The "Sin Eater," the so-called bad guy, is supposed to be Italian, but has an accent that wavers between a faint Irish twang and the muffled tones of a Russian, with the frequent intrusion of actor Benno Fürmann's German accent. He also only wears one suit through the whole film. Since he is rich and apparently immortal (well, sort-of: dear Helgeland can't seem to make up his mind), you would think he'd have more than just the one Armani hanging in the closet. He "eats" the sins of the guilty rich so that they can go to heaven free and clear, a fact to which all the good guys take great offense. It is wrong, I suppose, but I don't see anything different between buying your way into heaven than into a golf club: everyone wears white and gets to do what they want. An evil person getting into heaven is just as unfair as a good person not getting into heaven. So I rooted for the hot pseudo-Italian Sin Eater 'cause he be makin' the bling by merely providing a service to all those lapsed Catholics out there who made it big and sinned big to boot.

There are the glaring gaps in time, with weeks passing with nary the blink of an eye or scenes that should take a minute or two stretching on interminably. Characters are not given any depth whatsoever: Ledger's priest falls in love with a girl (Shannyn Sossamon) whom he knows virtually nothing about and has spent very little time with. Their dialogue is sparse and vapid, and there is no sense of why either one values the other's company. Mark Addy is the comic relief of the piece (everyone loves a fat English friar!), but he is given painfully unfunny lines to wield that fall embarrassingly flat. Addy has an association with an underground cult that is able to magically dispense the secrets of the universe by hanging men who then utter the truth as they strangle to death. Overseen by a masked character with a large stick, none of this is explained or elaborated upon, but merely trotted out whenever any character needs to know the answer to an obscure question of Catholic arcania.

This movie was terrible, ludicrous in its sheer badness. As I sat there, I was forced to entertain myself, which I did by making my aforementioned comment on the much superior entertainment value of gay porn.

I would rather have spent my $8.25 to see a couple of homo hotties get it on for an hour or two than watch this abomination.

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Research is fundamentally about systematically gathering, analyzing, and communicating information in ways that make sense to the people you're trying to reach. This is a critical tool for activists both in terms of helping communities be well-informed and also influencing institutions and governments. When you have no money and no degree behind your name, how can you use research to effect change? How does this tie into overall activist strategizing and planning?

Joshua Goldberg is a longtime activist with experience in prison justice, indigenous solidarity, peace, anti-poverty, and transgender movements.

Tuesday, September 23rd 12:30- 2:00pm Student Union Building Room B110a

On-Line Corporate Research

How can you track down a company's social and environmental track record? How can you find out who a company's shareholders are? What are the shady practices a corporation would rather no one knew about? This hands-on workshop will present methodologies and major sources of information for researching Canadian corporations.

Nedjo Rogers who is currently the Learning Technologies Coordinator at the Groundworks Learning Centre will draw examples from his years of experience with the Environmental Mining Council of BC, an environmental watchdog focusing on the mining industry. (Workshop located in computer lab.)

Tuesday, Sept. 30th 12:30-2:00pm Human & Social Development (HSD)A170

When the field research and politics collide: Sharing the experience of back to work research and the Campbell cuts.

This is a presentation about doing focus group and policy research with women in BC and then having the cuts announced in the middle of the research (before the final report). Come expecting to cry and laugh and learn.

Tanis Doe is a Metis woman with disabilities who works as a senior instructor at the School of Social Work and has 10 years of action research experience.

Tuesday, October 2nd 12:30- 2:00pm Student Union Building Room B110b

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Stop! Sergio's been caught stealin'

Jane's Addiction
Strays
Capitol Records, 2003

BY JEFF ANDREW

Okay, here we go. Remember Jane's Addiction? They're back with a brand new album and a brand new bass player. And damn it, it's good. Or at least it's as good a reunion album as anyone could expect from a band that broke the back of 80s pop-metal, started Lollapalooza and then broke apart in a fiery, spectacular explosion of charred, fractured relationships, heroin abuse and on-stage fistfights.

Jane's came screaming out of Los Angeles in the late 80s, part of the same loose collection of artists, punks and surf bums that spawned the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The two albums they released, Nothing's Shocking and Ritual De Lo Habitual, managed to fuse arena-rock guitar heroics with lush, tripped-out harmonies and lyrical, erotic poetry. Tying it all together was front man Perry Farrell's voice–an androgynous, yet highly sexualized banshee wail that soared above and around the music in looping, asymmetrical melodic flights that lent an unpredictable, ethereal beauty to the noisy precision of the band.

It certainly stood out against the likes of Poison and Mötley Crüe, especially when Farrell indulged in caustic, often painful explorations of lust and addiction. As for the new album, well, it sounds like Jane's Addiction, or at least the heavy rock side of the band. The title song begins with soft, bell-like guitar sounds chiming over a series of rolling bass chords, then quickly breaks into the classic Jane's Addiction sound–screaming guitars over a heavy bass and drum groove, with a full-throated, unearthly shriek from Farrell leading the way.

The rest of the songs follow roughly the same pattern. It's actually a fairly one-dimensional album, considering the range of music this band is capable of. There's nothing even close to the majestic, aching sadness and beauty of "Jane Says." Even still, it's a worthy addition to the band's catalogue. The tight, thrusting power is all there, and while the recording isn't as loose or as raw as on their early albums, it isn't the slick, digitally sanitized radio shlock I was afraid it might be either.

Amusingly, the disc also comes equipped with new copy protection technology, an insert thanking the buyer for shelling out their 20 bucks and a reminder that "This recording and artwork are protected by copyright law. Since you don't own the copyright, it's not yours to distribute."

Whatever. Buy it, burn it, steal it: it's your call. I'm just glad they're back.

For fans of recreational drug use

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Take Them On-On Your Own

BY JASPER SCHWARTZ

Take Them On impressed me in a big way. This was my first experience with Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, and I regret not hearing them sooner: every song on this CD screams for radio play. Hopefully this album and others like it are heralding a return to rock's earlier years, with a strong beat, crunchy guitars, and snappy vocals.

There were a few tracks that really stood out from the rest.

"We're All in Love" seems destined to grace the soundtrack of the next teenage sex-ploitation flick.

Especially suitable for a road trip, don't forget to bring this CD when you're packing the trunk with the tent, booze, and condoms.

This song makes great driving music for the morning after, when you're hung over and realize you've made a complete ass of yourself the night before.

"In Like the Rose" has an awesome keyboard-sounding guitar riff.

Fans of recreational drug use will enjoy setting the song on repeat and listening to this a few times.

When I listened I was really tired and I felt myself falling into a semi-trance. This would be a song to play at a rave.

On the track "Shade of Blue" the grungy feel and deep vocals bring to mind Pulp doing a cover of Pearl Jam. This mix really works, and the tune is instantly likable.

Usually I would be cursing any band that seems so perfectly commercial, but like the White Stripes, BRMC comes from very college roots.

If BRMC and bands like them are able to take the airwaves from the artists like Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger's stable of Can-Rock bands, so much the better.

Take Them On-On Your Own has found it's way into my CD case, and it's going to stay there for a while.

The song "Suddenly" was my favourite on the CD. This song feels like a James Bond theme song. If I had the money, I'd buy an Aston Martin just so I could play this song on the stereo and cruise over to Moneypenny's for a martini.

If you like the White Stripes' "Elephant" and Pulp's "We Love Life" also try BRMC.

Plays, they are a-comin'

BY KATRINA SARK

There are many goodies to look forward to this season at the Phoenix Theatre.

The first show is planned for October 9 and rehearsals have already begun. The season opens with Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" and as the Theatre Department Chair Brian Richmond points out, it promises to be an enjoyable experience for both the students and the audience.

"The plays this year are quite distinct," Richmond says. "It will be an exciting season. We are fortunate to get the services of [guest director] Alisa Palmer, who will bring a distinct interpretation to the play."

As for the second play that is planned for November, directed by Richmond, it will be a comic tragedy by Leonid Andreyev, entitled "He who gets Slapped."

"We are using a new translation for that play," Richmond says, "and we will be starting the casting soon. It will be a diverse season, a type of theatre that people can't see elsewhere. We are focusing on moving things forward and making them smoother. It is not a year of radical change, but a year of consolidation."

The Theatre Department is facing challenges in role distribution this year, since female actors in the department outnumber the men.

"The challenge is not whether there are enough strong roles for both male and female actors. It is about cross-casting," Richmond says.

Each year plays are chosen by committee and selected to represent a challenge for students and a distinct educational experience.

The first show was cast back in April and the rehearsals are in full swing.

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An anachronism

JOHN THOMPSON PHOTO

Remember how you were told everything comes back into fashion eventually? UVic Medieval Studies graduate Will McGuire puts this theory to the test.

The state of football

BY CAM DAVID

The 2004 NFL season is finally under way, and while there are a few new faces and a few old players wearing new colours, a lot hasn't changed since last year. Jake Plummer still can't remember what colours his receivers are wearing, the San Diego Chargers' defence still has more holes than downtown Baghdad, and Randy Moss is still harder to catch than Osama Bin Laden.

Playing in his regular season debut with the Denver Broncos, Jake Plummer is one of a few quarterbacks under a lot of pressure this season. There's been a void at the position in Denver since John Elway retired after back-to-back Super Bowl wins five years ago, and Plummer's the man who they hope can take them back to the postseason. Over his six year career with Arizona he's been criticized for throwing too many interceptions, and that hasn't changed. In Denver's opener in Cincinnati he threw three balls to the other team without scoring a single touchdown for the Broncos. Fortunately, Clinton Portis showed why he was last season's offensive rookie of the year and his two rushing touchdowns were enough to give Denver the win.

Another quarterback under pressure is Kurt Warner. The former two time NFL MVP took a lot of criticism last year for, well, losing. That also hasn't changed. Although he threw for 342 yards and a touchdown, six sacks, six fumbles and an interception offset, the Rams lost. Again.

When two of the league's most effective young quarterbacks were lost to injury in the preseason, that brought up a few more important questions. For the Jets, who lost Chad Pennington for 10 weeks (broken wrist) and the Falcons, who lost Michael Vick for six weeks (broken leg), the question was whether they could win without them. For everybody else, they want to know why the preseason is so damn long anyway. Both these young superstars led their teams to the playoffs last year, and to lose them for so long due to injury in a game that didn't even count is a shame. Even John Madden thinks they should shorten the preseason to avoid unnecessary injury.

Now let's go north of the border, where our very own CFL is just past the halfway point of its season. Who cares about the NFL when we've got pro football in Canada, with teams in cities that we actually care about, like Regina and Winnipeg. We've got longer fields, fewer downs, bigger balls and way, way less money. The Hamilton Ti-Cats ran out of money halfway through August and had to be taken over by the league. That's the second team this season, after the Toronto Argonauts suffered a similar fate in late July. That's almost a quarter of the nine teams in the league that can't afford to pay its players. Oh well, what can you expect from a bunch of glorified NFL farm teams?

Despite the financial troubles off the field, action on the field is as good as it ever was. The Montreal Alouettes are still dominating like they did last season, and have an excellent shot to repeat last year's Grey Cup victory. Veteran Montreal QB Anthony Calvillo leads the league in passing yardage, with almost 1,000 yards over his closest competitor, BC's Dave Dickenson. Dickenson is living proof of NFL superiority, as he came from being a third stringer in San Diego last year, to lead the CFL with a passer rating of 124.3. Unfortunately, the Lions' 7-4 record is still only good enough to tie them with Saskatchewan for 3rd in the highly competitive Western Division. Winnipeg and Edmonton hold the top two spots.

If all those teams are winning, who's losing, you might ask? The Hamilton Tiger Cats. To add insult to injury, on top of being broke, the Ti-Cats have also gone 0-12 this season. Ouch.

Between them, the two leagues should be enough to keep all you jocks busy until hockey season starts in a few weeks. That and, of course, studying.

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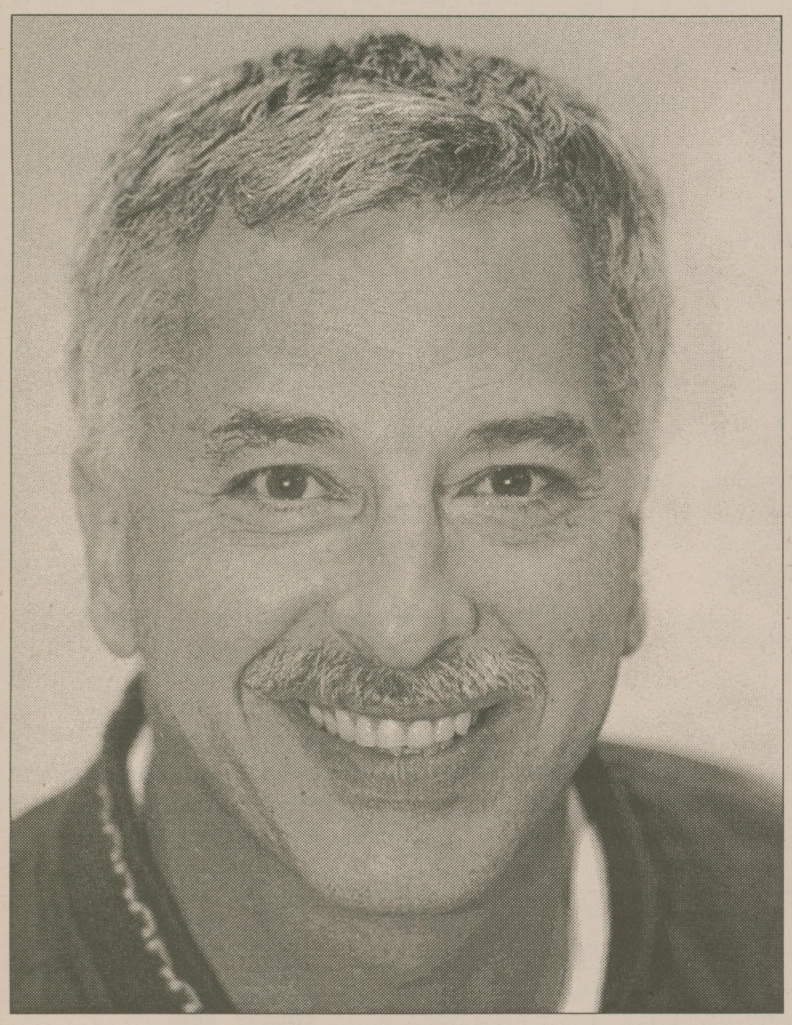

Guy Vetrie (above) suffered a heart attack on Monday claiming his life days shy of his 52nd birthday.

PROVIDED PHOTOS

Vetrie won multiple awards throughout his university coaching career. His contributions to both the UVic and Victoria commuities will be sorely missed.

Vikes basketball coach dead on cusp of new season

BY AMAN NIRWAN AND PATRICK WHITE

The head coach of the UVic men's basketball team, Guy Vetrie, passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack September 15, 2003, while jogging the university chip trail.

Just three days short of his 52nd birthday, Vetrie was eagerly anticipating the upcoming season due to his team's promising late-season play and the addition of his son, Ryan Vetrie, to the roster over the summer.

Vetrie was one of the most highly respected basketball coaches in Canada. His many accomplishments include a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS, formerly CIAU) national championship as head coach of UVic in 1997, six 'Canada West Coach of the Year' trophies, and an astounding 543 career wins in his twenty-four year CIS head coaching career. Vetrie also received the Coaching Association of Canada Award in 1988, and was appointed Senior National Team Assistant Coach in 1989-91.

James Keogh, UVic coordinator of athletics, said the athletics department is reeling from Vetrie's death. "It's a hole that may never be filled," Keogh said. "His impact in the university community and the larger Victoria community was huge."

Vetrie began his coaching career as an assistant at Laurentian University, where he worked for one season. From there he moved on to coach the Saskatchewan Provincial Elite team for two seasons. In 1979, Vetrie made his break in to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport as a head coach with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies where he served until 1988 before joining UVic the following year.

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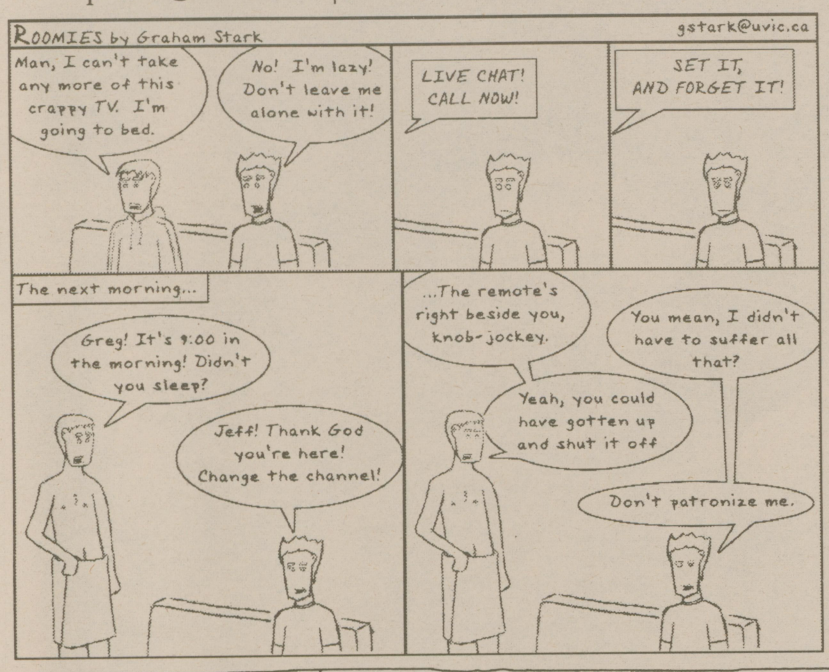
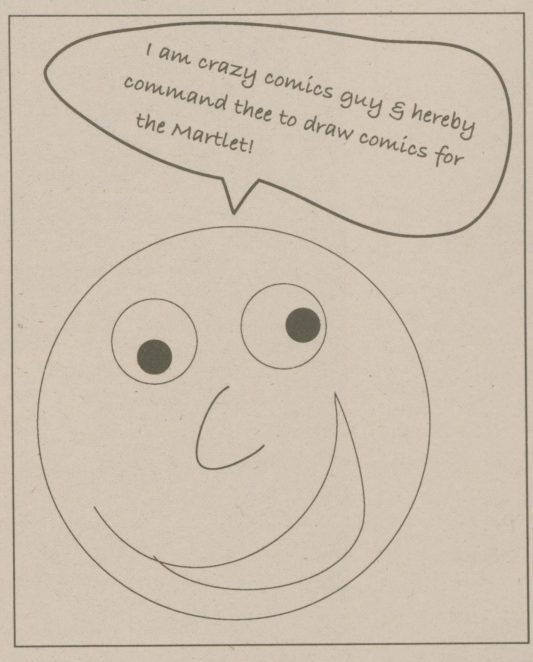
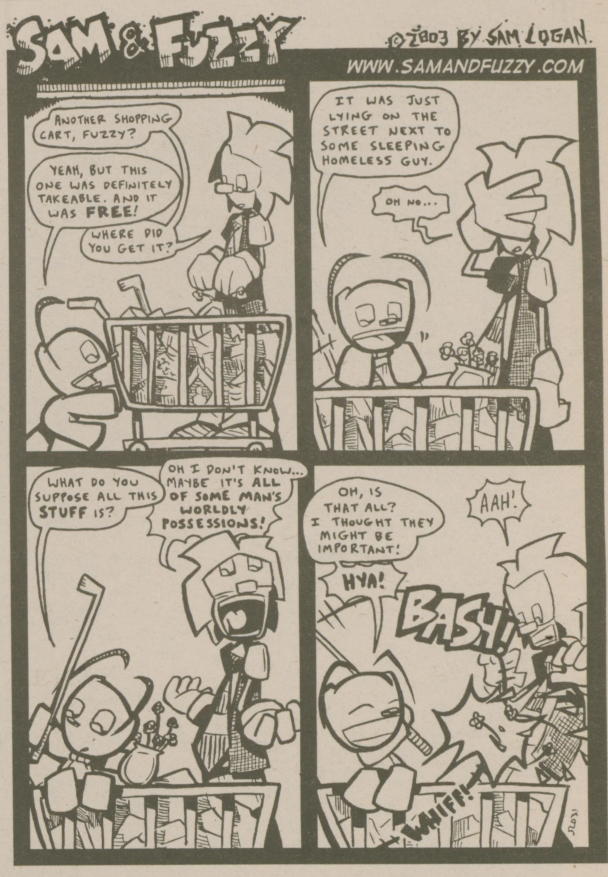

ROOMIES by Graham Stark
gstark@uvic.ca
Man, I can't take any more of this crappy TV. I'm going to bed.
No! I'm lazy! Don't leave me alone with it!
LIVE CHAT! CALL NOW!
SET IT, AND FORGET IT!
The next morning...
Greg! It's 9:00 in the morning! Didn't you sleep?
Jeff! Thank God you're here! Change the channel!
...The remote's right beside you, knob-jockey.
Yeah, you could have gotten up and shut it off
You mean, I didn't have to suffer all that?
Don't patronize me.

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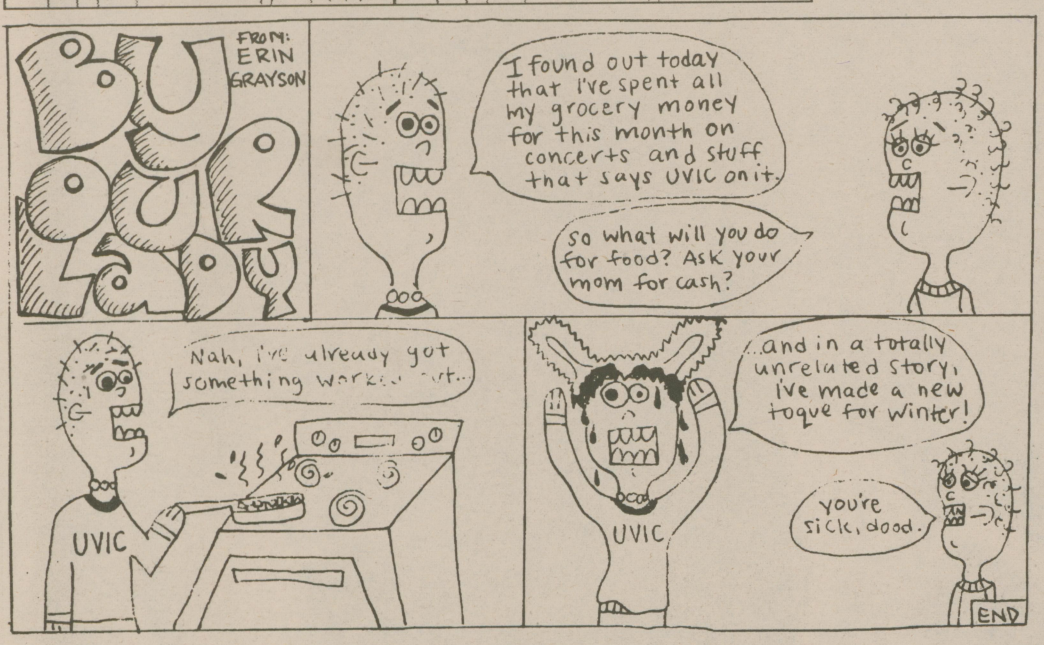
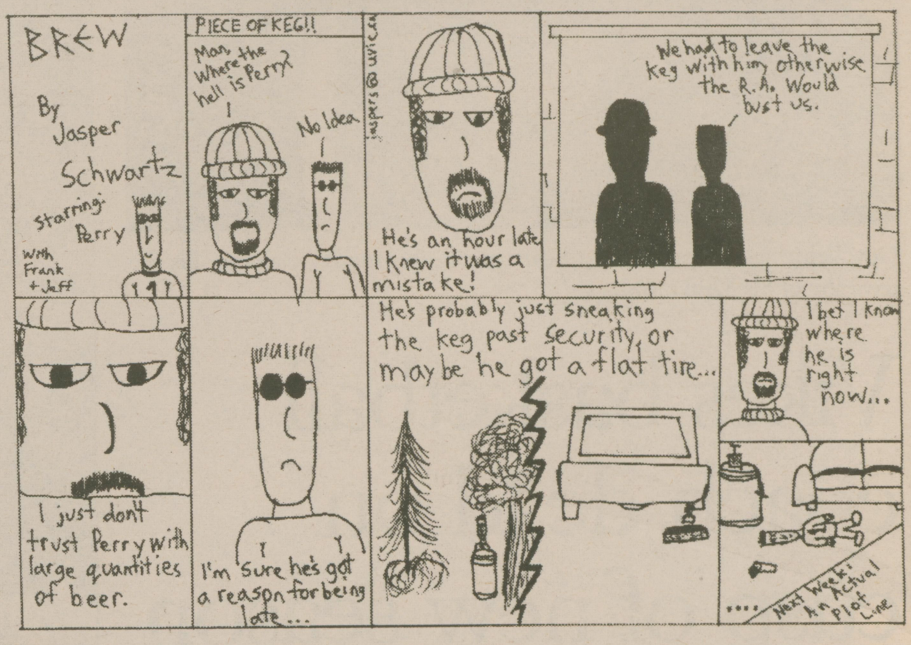
ANOTHER SHOPPING CART, FUZZY?
YEAH, BUT THIS ONE WAS DEFINITELY TAKEABLE. AND IT WAS FREE!
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
IT WAS JUST LYING ON THE STREET NEXT TO SOME SLEEPING HOMELESS GUY.
OH NO...
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE ALL THIS STUFF IS?
OH I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE IT'S ALL OF SOME MAN'S WORLDLY POSSESSIONS!
OH, IS THAT ALL? I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE IMPORTANT!
AAH!
HYA!
BASH!
WHIFF!!


BU
FROM: ERIN GRAYSON
I found out today that I've spent all my grocery money for this month on concerts and stuff that says UVIC on it.
so what will you do for food? Ask your mom for cash?
Nah, I've already got something worked out..
UVIC
...and in a totally unrelated story, I've made a new toque for winter!
you're sick, dood.
END


BREW
By Jasper Schwartz
starring: Perry with Frank + Jeff
I just don't trust Perry with large quantities of beer.
PIECE OF KEG!!
Man, Where the hell is Perry?
No Idea
I'm sure he's got a reason for being late...
He's an hour late I knew it was a mistake!
We had to leave the keg with him otherwise the R.A. would bust us.
He's probably just sneaking the keg past security, or maybe he got a flat tire...
I bet I know where he is right now...
Next Week! An Actual Plot Line

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ON CAMPUS

UVic Pride is inviting all queer and queer-friendly poeple to its fabulous **WELCOME BACK PARTY** Friday September 19, 2003 at 7:30 in the Grad Lounge at UVic. Free food, fun live music, DJ and dancing, drinks available. It's all-ages, free and everyone is welcome! For more information contact pride@uvss.uvic.ca or (250) 472-4393.

Bicycle to UVic? Increase your confidence in traffic with our one day cycling skills course. Deposit refunded upon attendance. Info at http://web.uvic.ca/uvbikes

OFF CAMPUS

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION WELCOMING BARBECUE Sunday, Sept. 21, after 4 p.m. Mass. New & continuing students, faculty and staff warmly invited! 5 p.m., Holy Cross Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Road.

BLUEGRASS JAM, Tuesdays at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, 7:30pm. Players of all levels welcome. Players $2, listeners free. Contact: Larry Lawrence Statland (250) 472-6483.

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